Open Enrollment Set To Begin November 12
November 13 BeneFair offers information, valuable doorprizes

PawPrint staff

Open Enrollment, the annual period during which staff are able to make changes in their benefit plans, is set to begin November 12.

Learn about your benefit choices for the upcoming calendar year during the Open Enrollment Benefit Fair to be held Tuesday, November 15, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Student Ballroom. Benefits are free and open to all Cornell faculty and staff.

Plan to come and meet the vendors and sign up for a number of door prizes including more than 40 gift certificates worth $50 each in Ithaca Downtown Dollars and the chance to win one pair of tickets to "The Producers," on CFC's planned trip to New York City, April 13, 2002 (a $800 value).

Be sure to arm yourself with information in order to make informed choices. Read the materials in the Open Enrollment packet that is being mailed to your home address. Extensive useful information can also be found in the full edition of Fair Benefit.

Individual concerns can be addressed by calling Benefit Services at 255-3956 or e-mail: benefits@cornell.edu. In-person presentations by Benefit Services staff can be arranged through your college or unit HR representative.

Pictured are several staffs taking advantage of the carnival-like atmosphere of a past BeneFair to get answers to their questions about health care choices and other benefits. The day is always lively and provides an opportunity to win valuable door prizes.

Select Benefits option often overlooked as way to save money on health care

PawPrint staff

If you had a chance to save 20-35% on your out-of-pocket medical, dental and vision expenses, would you do it?

Seems like a no brainer, doesn't it, but, in fact, the majority of Cornell employees are missing out on the chance to do just that. In fact, less than 20% of Cornell staff and faculty sign up for the Select Benefits Medical Care Account. But with larger perception pays and deductibles, maybe this is the year you should seriously consider it. How does it work?

You determine an annual amount of money to be placed into a Select Benefits Medical Care Reimbursement Account through payroll deduction. This amount is subtracted from your earnings before your taxes are calculated and deducted—thus the savings. It works by taking advantage of a federal law that gives employees an immediate tax break when paying for medical services covered under the program. The money you put into Select Benefits is never taxed.

Then you can reimburse yourself for such eligible medical expenses as deductible amounts, doctor visit copayments, out-of-pocket dental expenses, copayments for prescription drugs, eyeglasses, contact lenses and more.

A little understood feature of Select Benefits Medical Care is that year can be stretched for a claim early in the year—even though you do not have the entire claim amount in your account yet.

Be aware that "use it or lose it" rules do apply. That is, if you do not use all the money in your account, any remaining balance will be forfeited. Because of this, you should estimate carefully and set aside only the amount of money that you feel certain you will spend for health care expenses during the course of the upcoming year. You have until March 31 of the following year to submit claims.

Both enrolled and statutory employees have until December 31 to submit enrollment forms for the Select Medical Care Reimbursement Account for the year 2002. Participation does not automatically continue from year to year.

For more information on how Select Benefits works, contact Benefits Services at 255-3956. Make your health care dollars work harder for you in 2002.
Welcome to Cornell
Paper greats singing a suite of staff newcomers

Kevin Stearns

The second week of the month is the time for Cornell to laud its new arrivals, for it is a time when traditions are renewed and new traditions are born. The program has been in operation for over 20 years, and it continues to grow in popularity. The program is open to all Cornellians, and it is a great opportunity to meet new people and learn about the diverse interests of our community.

The event will end with a reception at the Cornell Alumni House, where there will be food and drinks, and guests will have the opportunity to mingle and network.

The reception will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and it is free to attend. Please RSVP by sending an email to reception@cornell.edu to reserve your spot.

We look forward to seeing you at the event and welcoming our newest Cornellians.

Kevin Stearns
Cornell Outdoor Education

THE LEADERSHIP LEADS

Their Duty

George Peter

It is a deeply fulfilling experience for me to be a part of the Cornell community, and I am honored to be in a position to help others feel the same way. As a mentor, I strive to provide guidance and support to those around me, helping them navigate the challenges and opportunities that come their way. I am committed to fostering a sense of belonging and inclusion, and I am dedicated to creating a positive and supportive environment for all.

As a leader, I am also committed to ensuring that Cornell remains at the forefront of innovation and excellence. I believe that we can achieve great things by working together, and I am excited to see what we can accomplish as a community.

George Peter
Resource Management Lead, Student Life

News Corner

No Cornellity

The First Annual Costume Contest

Cornellians were encouraged to show off their creativity and show us what they are made of. Whether it was a classic costume or something entirely new, everyone had fun dressing up and enjoying the fall season.

The contest was held on October 31, and the winners were announced at the annual Halloween party. Congratulations to all who participated and to the winners:

- First Place: The Great Gatsby
- Second Place: Witch
- Third Place: Devil

We look forward to next year's contest and seeing what new ideas our community will come up with.

Theresa PIPP

Secretary, Office of Student Life

Fabric Billings, Employee Assembly member

Get Involved

Do you have ideas for building a stronger sense of community at Cornell? Do you want to get involved in the Employee Assembly? Please join us and help improve work at Cornell.

In this issue, the Employee Assembly will discuss the following topics:

- How to increase employee engagement
- Strategies for improving communication and collaboration
- Ways to support employee mental health

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the Employee Assembly at eam@cornell.edu. We look forward to hearing from you.

Susan B. HILLMAN

Executive Director, Employee Assembly

CRC Halloween Costume Party Ranks

The CRC Halloween Costume Party was not only a fun event but also a great way to show off our creativity and Halloween spirit. People showed up dressed in a wide variety of costumes, from classic characters to more unique designs.

The event was held on October 31, and the winners were announced at the end of the night. The winners were:

- First Place: Batman
- Second Place: Queen of Hearts
- Third Place: Star Wars characters

We had a great time at the event and can't wait to see what new costumes people will come up with next year.

Lisa BARTLETT

Director of Human Resources, CRC
CORNELL RECREATION CONNECTION

CRC ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE
Friday, November 30
CRC is delighted to offer this annual event this year at the Terrace Restaurant in the beautiful Statler Hotel. The price is $20 per person for a dinner buffet. Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m., with a call to dinner at 7:00 p.m., and the dancing takes place 8:00 p.m. through 11:00 p.m. with DJ Chris Alling. The Statler Hotel is offering our guests a special room night at $32.
You must call the Statler Hotel at 257-2500 to make your reservations before November 10. Tickets are on sale at the CRC office. Space is limited, so call today to make reservations.

BUFFALO BILLS VS. MIAMI DOLPHINS
Sunday, November 22
With only two weeks left, it is first come, first served! The price is $5 per person, which includes ticket and transportation.
CRC Desk, 130 Day Hall or call 255-7565
Check out the newly updated CRC website at www.crc.cornell.edu

Upcoming Events

THURSDAY
- Cornell Store's semi-annual Customer Appreciation Sale: 20% off most everything in the store. Also special offers including buy any beverage and get one free at Under the Skylight Cafe and receive a free roll of film when you pick up your film processing at Big Red Photo. Sale repeats all day November 9.
- CAPE lecture: “Ancestry in Genomics: Ethical, Social, and Legal Implications for Public Action,” Professor Stephen Kresovich, 10:30 am, Boyce Thompson

FRIDAY
- Annual Big Red saleletest, today through Nov. 11.
- Dearborn Library

SUNDAY
- Bound for Glory: Pat Humphries, live sets at 8:30, 9:30, 10:30 pm, Cafe at Anabel Taylor Hall

MONDAY
- Pottery Sale & demonstration today through Nov. 16.
- Under the Skylight, Cornell Store. Students and community members will demonstrate pottery throwing and also sell wares made in the Cornell Ceramics Studio.
- Retirement celebration: MetLife, 1:00-4:00 pm, 130 Day Hall, Call 273-7341 to make an appointment.
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TUESDAY
- Retirement presentation: 10:00-11:00 am, 163 Day Hall
- Retirement celebration: Fidelity, 10:30 am, 163 Day Hall, Call 1-800-642-7131 for appointment.
- Retirement celebration: MetLife, 1:00-4:00 pm, 130 Day Hall, Call 273-7341 to make an appointment.
- Retirement celebration: Fidelity, 12:00-1:00 pm, 2123 Comstock
- Retirement celebration: MetLife, 1:00-4:00 pm, 130 Day Hall, Call 273-7341 to make an appointment.
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