About 900 Facilities Services staff members gathered June 10 for the sixth annual Facilities Services Employee Celebration, which began with a slide show of individual “kudos” and culminated in a presentation of the division’s Steve Wright Bridge Award, Keystone and Cornerstone Awards.

After welcoming staff to the event, Vice President Kyu-Jung Whang congratulated Heather Mulks, assistant superintendent, for receiving her bachelor’s degree from Cornell’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and introduced a video tribute to Facilities Services staff who work second, third and rotating shifts: Campus-to-Campus drivers and transportation service representatives, shift mechanics, EMCS staff, Water Filtration Plant and Central Energy plant operators, custodial staff and the grounds crew.

The highest honor, the Keystone Award, was given to Central Energy Plant (CEP) operators for “exemplifying excellence in service to the organization and consistently providing quality output in work activities,” Whang said. Receiving the award were Scott Adams, operations manager; senior plant operator team members Dave VanDeMark, William Hildreth, Kelly Martin and Tim Kilpatrick; and senior relief plant operators Lon Hildreth and Bruce Auchampaugh.

Plant operators alternate working 6 a.m.-6 p.m. with 6 p.m.-6 a.m. to keep high-pressure boilers, turbines, pumps, control systems and two large jet engines that burn natural gas and co-generate electricity and steam operational. They are known for being steadfast, calm and competent – but on Jan. 29, 2014, these qualities were put to the test, Whang said.

By 5:45 a.m. that morning, the temperature dropped to minus 10 degrees Fahrenheit and a valve malfunctioned, stopping the fuel supply of natural gas to CEP and the steam supply to most of campus, Whang said.

CEP operators quickly worked to shed steam loads, lessening the demand for steam across campus and switching many boilers to liquid fuel oil. They made repairs and, Whang said, “thanks to preparation and planning, plus quick response and intelligent action by all involved,” restored full steam pressure by noon, without jeopardizing any research or temperature-sensitive operations.

Four Cornerstone Awards were presented:

- The Cornerstone Award for Effectiveness Improvement was given to the Facilities Management procurement team – Debi Geiger, Steve Haner, Scott Pedersen, Bill McNamara, Ray Strong, Donna Van Buskirk and Randy West – for standardizing and streamlining the division’s ordering and purchasing process.
- The Cornerstone Award for Distinction in Teamwork was awarded to the Facilities information group from document archiving – Rebecca Merritt, Diana Bunnell-Remillard and Lisa Powers – for enhancing Facilities Services’ archival records collection and expanding its database to more than 126,000 records.
- The Cornerstone Award for Developing Others was given to Robin Keith, from Facilities Management Training and Development, for providing training to the division staff and effectively orienting new building care staff to their responsibilities and to university policies and procedures.
- The Cornerstone Award for Campus or Community Service was presented to foster parent Jeff Gregrow, who cares for teens and other foster children at his farm, integrates them with his family life, takes them on trips, meets with their schools and supports their interests.

Named in honor of Steve Wright, former director of Planning, Design and Construction and longtime champion of diversity and inclusion, the Steve Wright Bridge Award was presented to the support team for the division’s inaugural Career Exploration event, held last January with the College of Human Ecology and community organizations. The event introduced job seekers to Facilities Services, with the goal of developing a pipeline of potential applicants. Receiving the award were Jennie Babcock, Roberta Dillon, Tara Reed and Sue Kern Wilkins.
Hi. I’m Michelle Stefanski-Seymour, a two-decade plus employee of the Veterinary College at Cornell University. I look forward to coming to work every day because I know it will be an ever-changing and eventful day at the Ambulatory and Production Medicine Clinic, where I am the technician.

Don’t get me wrong – on the rare sunny mornings in upstate New York, it would be nice to improve the golf game, go to a lake, or ski a blue-bird day, but then reality hits and I remember I am an important team member involved with keeping patients healthy, clients happy, students learning and research advancing. Every part an employee plays to keep the wheels turning at Cornell University is important; for the staff in my unit, we literally keep the wheels turning – one small part of this job is to maintain (with superb help from the Cornell Fleet Garage) the Ambulatory trucks and vans that, every day, carry veterinarians and students around a thirty-mile radius of the college. We provide veterinary services to local cows, horses, sheep, goats, camelids and pigs. See http://www.vet.cornell.edu/hospital/amb/ for more information.

It’s impossible to stay static in the dynamic setting of higher learning, and I have found embracing new technologies, taking advantage of lifelong learning opportunities, and staying flexible with daily routines keep my employment at Cornell University enjoyable. I was able to join Employee Assembly after being invited by a member, obtaining the permission of my supervisor, and flexing that schedule to accommodate some university-encouraged responsibilities of self-governance participation. This gave me the opportunity to participate in the call for a holiday on Martin Luther King Day, recognize employee excellence with the George Peter Award for Dedicated Service and the new Opperman Award for Staff Advocacy, address employee concerns related to carbon reduction and energy conservation, and having a voice to say “Hey, a digester would be really great near our pretty new Teaching Dairy” to anyone that might listen. After all, a digester will use compostable materials, wet resources and manure to provide new research jobs, reduce our carbon footprint/add green energy and probably require some more staff!

I challenge other employees to take that first step to enrich your university experience: sit in on a meeting of the EA or other assembly (then join it), volunteer for a committee, nominate a co-worker for an award, participate in a wellness challenge, support the CARE Fund – or at very least, speak up and ask if it is possible for you to do so. I can attest that you will be surprised at the many positive outcomes that such participation can bring and how it makes you feel about being a part of the Cornell University community.

For more information about any of the topics above, see https://www.hr.cornell.edu/life/support/care_fund.html, http://assembly.cornell.edu/EAAwards/Home or http://assembly.cornell.edu/EA/Home.
Kiwanis award honors Cornell police investigators

Cornell University police officers Lt. Daniel Murphy, Sgt. Anthony Bellamy and their investigative team – Stan Slovik, Dan Gonzalez, Charles Alridge and Denise Schulze – were recognized with the Frank Hammer Kiwanis Officer of the Month Award June 23 for their work to identify and ensure the safety of a person brought to their attention during Commencement Weekend.

In the early morning of May 23, custodian Peter Thompson found multiple drafts of a handwritten letter in an unsecured campus computer laboratory that revealed its author was despondent. Thompson, his supervisor Chris Edwards, and Brandi Smith, assistant director of community center operations, worked with the Major Investigations Unit of Cornell University Police to identify the letter’s author. Counselors from Gannett Health Services provided guidance.

With no evidence of the author’s identity or affiliation beyond a first name, officers checked for missing or endangered persons calls on and off campus, checked with local high schools for any information, and checked Cornell databases. They narrowed the possibilities to nearly 100 Cornell students, staff, faculty and temporary employees with the same first name and checked on each person.

“The investigative unit engaged not only every-thing they had to give, but every available resource inside and outside the department,” wrote Cornell University Chief of Police Kathy Zoner in her nomination letter.

The team located the author May 25, ascertained the person’s well-being and received assurance that help had been enlisted.

Summer fun: take photos for the 2014 annual photo contest

With this last issue of Pawprint until August 29 comes a reminder to take photos this summer to enter into the 32nd annual Pawprint Photography Contest. Deadline: September 26, 2014.

To encourage new entrants, an additional category has been added for those faculty and staff who have not submitted any photos to this contest in the past three years: New Entrants. Entries in this category can be in any subject.

Cornell staff, faculty, students, alumni and retirees can submit up to four entries, one in each of their choice of nine categories: Adults, Animals, Cornell (any location), Humor, Landscape, Nature, Special Effects (digital enhancement), Structures/Buildings and Unspecified. Of their maximum of four images, new entrants can choose to submit one entry to the New Entrants category and the remaining three digital images to the other nine categories (or all four images to the other nine categories).

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

Start taking those great summer photos – and review some of your best from this past year – and send them via email to vsr1@cornell.edu, subject line: Pawprint Photo Contest by vsr1@cornell.edu, with the subject line: Pawprint Photo Contest by vsr1@cornell.edu.

How to enter

Name your photos for submission as indicated above. Send by email to Valerie McMillen, vsr1@cornell.edu, with the subject line: Pawprint Photo Contest.

NOTE: entries will not be posted online until AFTER the deadline is past.

By submitting a photograph to the Pawprint Photography Contest, you are giving permission to Pawprint to produce that photo in hard copy and digitally online, for the purposes of promoting the contest and showing viewers the winning photographs. Pawprint is not responsible for any copyright violations that web visitors may incur.

To view last year’s winners in each category, see http://pawprint.cornell.edu/?q=photo-gal- lery/2013-pawprint-photo-contest-winners.

Photos must be submitted digitally; the file must be named by the photographer’s Cornell NetID and category, “dot”, name of photo (for instance: njs3Animals.AViewFr-omAbove).

Except for the Special Effects category, do not digitally enhance or alter your photographs beyond the basics for realistic color balance and sharpness.

Cornell staff, faculty, students, alumni and retirees are eligible. Family members of Cornellians, Cornell’s professional photographers, their support staff, student photography majors and contest judges are not eligible.

Photos entered in previous years’ contests are ineligible.

Contest rules

• Each person may submit one photo per category in as many as four categories (i.e., four photographs per year per photographer).

.autor, Denise Schulze – were recog-
KyuJung Whang and Andrea Haenlin-Mott (second in from right), with winners of the Steve Wright Bridge Award: Jennie Babcock, Roberta Dillon, Dave Howe, Sue Kern Wilkins, and Tara Reed.

Darlene Hackworth congratulates peers.

James Kazda and Mark Giblin, left, and KyuJung Whang, right, with winners of the Cornerstone Effectiveness Improvement Award: Bill McNamara, Ray Strong, Debi Geiger, Randy West, Scott Pedersen, Steve Haner. Missing is Donna Van Buskirk.

Dave Howe, Pam Lockwood and Jessica Lang

Kristen Gutenberger and Heather Nickerson

Bob Chiang, Dave Gregrow, Lillian Gregrow, Jeff Gregrow, Erik Eshlemen, Sarah Moore and Elizabeth Jenkins, from Tioga Co DSS Foster Care Unit.
Employee Celebration

Randy Lacey, Jane VanDerzee and KyuJung Whang with winners of the Cornerstone for Distinction in Teamwork Award: Diana Bunnell-Remillard, Lisa Powers, and Rebecca Merritt

Gilbert Delgado, Bob Chiang and Erik Eshelman, at left, and KyuJung Whang, at right, with winner of the Cornerstone Award for Campus or Community Service, Jeff Gregrow

Tom LiVigne and Rick Axtell, at left, and KyuJung Whang, at right, with winner of the Cornerstone Award for Developing Others, Robin Keith

Deb Melanson enjoys the morning’s event.

Elisa Springer, Bill Sitzabee, Randy Lacey and Jim Kazda

Transportation Services staff members enjoy brunch.
Imagine what it is like to come to Cornell for the first time from a non-Western country, with no car and no expectations of returning home until the following June.

Now imagine how different this experience could feel if a local family showed you around Ithaca; helped you find Wegmans; took you to movies, concerts and sporting events; and invited you to dinner over the holidays.

The Cornell International Friendship Program, sponsored by the International Students and Scholars Office and now about 50 years old, makes that difference for about 75 international students and their families each year. “We are always looking for families, both at Cornell and in the Ithaca area, to match up with students at the beginning of September,” said Anita Watkins, who, with her husband, has volunteered for the program, helped with its publicity and event organization, and has partnered with students from such countries as China, Malaysia, Japan and South Africa.

Watkins said local volunteers do not provide housing for international students or families, but make a personal connection to make them feel at home. “Just involve them in whatever activity you are doing as a family,” she said, “whether it is going to the Farmer’s Market or Wegman’s, visiting the waterfalls, taking a hike, picking blueberries, going to a hockey game or having pizza.” The volunteers receive the satisfaction of knowing they are making someone feel at ease during their stay in the United States, and the students become better immersed in American culture. And when local volunteers with young children are matched with international families with children, both families benefit, Watkins said.

“For both families, it’s a great opportunity to introduce your children to a different culture,” she said.

“I call it ‘promoting world peace one friend at a time,’” said Stu Berg, who with his wife has volunteered to be a friendship partner for about 30 years, and has run the program since June 2013. Berg developed a database to match local volunteers to students seeking a friendship partner. Interested students log in and answer such questions as their major, field of study, native language, whether they have children and what kind of involvement they want their friendship partner to have – meeting once a week or once a month, for instance.

Oftentimes relationships with students extend past the first year, and sometimes last for a lifetime. “They can be like your extended family,” said Berg, who partnered with a student from Costa Rica 30 years ago and has visited her several times there. Watkins was hosted in Japan by one of her friendship students, Rosa. And Lu Ye ’13, now living and working in Boston, got to know Watkins and her husband, Don Campbell, professor of astronomy, during her senior year and returned to Ithaca to visit them this month. Lu said that in addition to taking her around Ithaca, they helped her with her resume, preparing for a job interview and car registration, insurance and service appointments.

“You feel really good about being at Cornell because you know that someone is thinking about you and will care if you run into a problem,” Ye said. Her parents also appreciated the local volunteers, Ye noted: “My parents felt better just by knowing that there was someone in the United States I could turn to for help if I needed it,” she said.

But the most important benefits of the program are the connections that are made. “The memories of our times together are great treasures,” Ye said. “They will be in my heart forever.”

To learn more about CIFP or to volunteer, visit http://www.isso.cornell.edu/ithacalife/CIFP.php. Should you still have any questions or concerns, contact Stu Berg at cifpithaca@gmail.com or Adriana Rovers at apr6@cornell.edu.
Vice President Murphy reaches 20

More than 50 Cornell staff and senior leaders gathered June 16 to honor Susan H. Murphy ’74, Ph.D. ’94 for her 20 years of dedicated service as vice president of student and academic services (SAS), a division that has more than 1,200 staff and 2,500 student employees. Murphy has worked at Cornell since 1978, including nine years as dean of admissions and financial aid before taking the helm at SAS on July 1, 1994. The event was organized by Sue Parker, who has worked with Murphy the entire 20 years, and was held in Court Hall’s Murphy Lobby, which was named in Murphy’s honor in 2005.

Human resources celebrates service accomplishments

About 140 people from the human resources community and the Department of Inclusion and Workforce Diversity gathered June 23 to recognize their peers for their accomplishments and years of service, including Pam Dollaway, for 30 years of service, and Tammy Dunlop and Rick Kuha for 25 years of service.

Celebrating 15 years of service were: Chris Halladay, Jessica Divell, Lynette Chappell-Williams, Pat Mahoney and Berta Davidson. Donna Marie Parker, Jim Sheridan, Jo Ellen Rose, Linda Croll Howell and Melanie Ciotoli were recognized for 10 years of service.

A number of staff attended Cornell leadership programs this past year: Amy Bennett, Davine Bey, Allan Bishop, Seth Braehler, Dawn Carlyle, Jess Cisco, Shari Constantino, Dane Cruz, Laurie DeNardo, Edgar Johnson, Jill Johnson, Rehana Huq, Rick Kuha, Kristie Lamb, Pat Mahoney, Donna Marie Parker, Melissa Reif, Vivian Refta, Ting Shih-Okawachi, Ann Spott and Daniel Sweeney.

Vice President Mary Opperman also recognized Roberta Dillon, Eileen Whang, Kathy Carpenter and Davine Bey for advancing their careers through further learning. She thanked the members of the HR Engagement Survey Action Council and the University Engagement Committees for their efforts over the past year.

Opperman highlighted the Wellness Program’s recognition of its 25th anniversary this year and congratulated its director, Beth McKinney, for receiving the inaugural Opperman Award for Staff Advocacy at the second annual Kudos luncheon.

Receiving recognition from off-campus, Opperman noted, were Kathy Burkren, a 2014 Brent Ruben Award Winner for her leadership in founding, sustaining and advancing excellence in higher education, and Chris Halladay, honored as one of three “leaders of change” in higher education.

Also celebrating service anniversaries but unable to attend were: Janet Beebe, Jennifer Coningsby, Hayley Harris, Tina Henry, Nancy Leonard, Ed Quay, Cynthia Santos, Ellen Stotler, Pam Strausser and Karen Wilcox.

Annual supplier show draws 1,000

More than 1,000 members of the Cornell community attended the annual supplier show hosted by Procurement Services June 12 in Barton Hall, exceeding last year’s attendance by about 200. Attendees visited the 142 booths from 119 of Cornell’s contract suppliers to learn about their products and services, and to hear about the savings and efficiencies the suppliers offer to Cornell departments.

Suppliers ranged from printers, office supply and equipment companies to those providing laboratory equipment or services, as well as those offering machinery, optics, carpets, foods, organizational services or industrial and cleaning supplies.

Sixty-four prizes were given away: 58 from suppliers and six from Procurement Services.
Summer CRC Trips Reminders

The next Cornell Recreation Connection trip to New York City is August 9. The discounted fare is $50 per person for Cornell faculty/staff and up to four guests. Contact Swarthout Coaches at http://www.goswarthout.com/tours/cornell-faculty-tours-31.html to make a reservation. Full payment is due at the time of reservation.

Last chance to sign up for the Niagara Falls Trip, which will take place July 19. At least 11 more registrations are needed by June 30 to make this trip happen.

- Depart Cornell’s B-Lot at 6:30 a.m. and spend the day on your own in Niagara Falls.
- By pre-arrangement, guests who wish to join us at Thruway Exit 42 can do so.
- There will be a brief rest stop on the way to Niagara Falls. Feel free to bring food with you on the bus.
- From your drop-off at the Niagara USA Office Visitor Center, you can choose to visit the Cave of the Winds, Maid of the Mist, Niagara Adventure Theater, Aquarium of Niagara or Ride the Niagara Scenic Trolley (visit http://www.niagarafallsstatepark.com/ or www.niagarar-usa.com for more information and attractions costs).
- You can also choose to be dropped off at the Seneca Niagara Casino or at Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls (formerly Prime Outlets); see http://www.fashionoutletsniagara.com/.
- Pick-up at all locations will be at approximately 8 p.m. to return to Cornell. A pick-up schedule will be shared on the bus that day.
- Cost: $50 per person for Cornell faculty/staff and up to four guests.

FREE SUMMER EVENTS AT CORNELL

The School of Continuing Education and Summer Sessions once again is sponsoring a free summer events series. Open to the public, the series runs from June 24 to August 1 and features events at the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts, lectures in Bailey Hall and concerts on the Arts Quad. For a full listing, see http://pawprint.cornell.edu/?q=articles/2014/06/free-summer-events-at-cornell or go to summer.cornell.edu/events.

BOTANICAL GARDENS TOURS

Enjoy a guided tour through the Botanical Gardens, held every Saturday at 10 a.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m., through Sept. 28 and discover the beauty and diversity of numerous theme gardens. Actual tour content will vary from week to week, depending on the plants, season, interests of the group and whim of the docent.

SHAKESPEARE AT PLANTATIONS

Celebrate the twelfth year of outdoor Shakespeare at F.R. Newman Arboretum, Jackson Grove, in the Cornell Plantations, as the Ithaca Shakespeare Company presents two plays in rotating repertory: Hamlet, on July 10, 12, 18, 20, 24 and 26 and Love’s Labour’s Lost, July 11, 13, 17, 19 and 25. All performances are at 6 p.m., Thursday (pay what you can, $10 suggested) thru Sunday evenings (Friday-Sunday, $10 per person). There will be no performance Sunday, July 27. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, umbrella (performances will continue during rain, but may be halted in case of severe weather). For more information, or to purchase advance tickets, visit the Ithaca Shakespeare Company online at www.ithacashakespeare.org.

STARGAZING AT FUERTES

Join the Cornell Astronomy Society (CAS) for stargazing tours of the night sky at the historic Fuertes Observatory, Cradit Farm Rd., North Campus Friday nights 9 p.m. - midnight. View planets, galaxies, and other celestial wonders through telescopes as guides provide insight into what you are seeing. Parking is available in the Appel lot across Cradit Farm Rd. To find out if the observatory is currently open, call (607) 255-3557 for the prerecorded message.

NATURAL AREAS Hike

Join the Cornell Gorge Stewards on a hike around Beebe Lake, Sundays 1-2 p.m. Learn about the history of the area, geology and the local flora and fauna. Meet at the north side of the Beebe Lake dam, near Japes Lodge and the Triphammer Foot Bridge. This hike is open to anyone, but some stairs and gravel paths will be encountered. This event will not run in inclement weather.

Pawprint Staff Paper for Cornell