More than 500 attend Office Professionals Celebration

BY NANCY DOOLITTLE

The Jennie T. Farley Office Professionals Celebration, held April 27 in the Ramin Room in Bartels Hall, attracted some 520 office professionals from around campus for lunch.

Mixing humor with gratitude, Vice President for Human Resources Mary Opperman harkened back to 1996, when she first came to Cornell, and how she noted in a 1997 interview that part of her role was “to get out good information about change and to arm staff with new skills to adjust to, and thrive in, a changing environment.” The one thing that hasn’t changed since then, she said, is that the university is still changing. She thanked the office professionals for all they have done in working through those changes.

“You continue to learn new skills, you continue to be resilient, you remain committed to your work, to each other, and to Cornell’s students and faculty,” she said.

Opperman urged staff to continue to take advantage of Cornell’s resources, tools and services to expand their skills. Quoting Maya Angelou, who said, “My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style,” Opperman said that these are the qualities that characterize Cornell’s office professionals: “Passion for what you do, compassion for those you meet, humor in your dealings with the unexpected, and style – in everything.”

In expressing her thanks to the attendees, Vice President for Student and Academic Services Susan Murphy drew from her experiences at Cornell as a student, noting the positive and lasting effect that office professionals have had on her and continue to have in “fostering a healthy educational environment.”

She said that Marjorie McKee Blanchard ’62 once gave a speech at Cornell in which she advocated that everyone make a pact with themselves to stay healthy by developing four traits – perspective, autonomy, connectedness and “tone” or physical well-being.

Perspective, Murphy said, comes from viewing stresses in a broader context and remembering what is really important. Autonomy is a matter of finding some part of our lives over which we have a sense of control, she said. Social connectedness has been proven to contribute to good health, she said, and tone is a matter of pursuing healthful habits.

The program closed with songs performed by the student groups Last Call and Anything Goes, and door prizes from local organizations and Cornell departments.

Cornell beats Dartmouth in blood-drive contest

In keeping with the commitment to be a “caring community,” Cornell students, staff and faculty stepped up to the challenge to defeat Dartmouth College in a two-day competition, May 3-4, to get more blood donations during this year’s contest, compared with last year’s.

The Cornell blood drive at Weill Hall, May 3, and Hans Bethe House, May 4, resulted in 121 donations – 46 percent more than in the two-day competition last May, while Dartmouth’s donations were the same as last year’s. The American Red Cross, which sponsored the competition, estimates that this drive alone will help save more than 350 lives, in addition to the many lives saved through the other blood drives held at Cornell each year.

Melanie Amodea, of the American Red Cross, monitors Leni Mass, wife of Dan Maas of Environmental Health and Safety, giving blood in Weill Hall as part of the CU vs. Dartmouth Blood Drive May 3.
MAC Defender catches Mac users by surprise

Although fake antivirus and other malware attacks have primarily been an issue for PCs in the past, this is no longer the case. MAC Defender is the first in a series of attacks that security experts anticipate will prey on Mac users. Mac users who have not already installed Symantec AntiVirus, free for all faculty, staff and student-owned computers, should do so now (see www2.cit.cornell.edu/security/symantec/mac.html).

MAC Defender, malware purporting to be a legitimate antivirus program, uses popups and a series of tricky tactics to bait Mac users into divulging their credit card numbers at unsecure web sites, where more than a few dollars may be at risk.

MAC Defender uses search engine optimization techniques to appear at the top of search engine results (including Google Image searches). Some of the web sites where it appears are created specifically for the purpose of duping unsuspecting Mac users into installing malware, but it’s also often the case that other legitimate web sites, which have been hacked, are hosting the malware.

When you click on a link to a web site hosting MAC Defender, a pop-up displays a fake scanning animation and says your computer has been infected. Without your consent, a ZIP file containing MAC Defender is downloaded onto your computer. Opening this file takes you through the process of installing the malware as though it were legitimate — you’ll even have to type your computer’s administrator password to provide consent.

Safari appears to be the most vulnerable browser at this time, specifically if the default setting to “Open ‘safe’ files after downloading” is active. If you use Safari, turn off this option: in Preferences, under the General tab, uncheck “Open ‘safe’ files after downloading.”

Once it’s installed, MAC Defender starts up whenever you restart your computer. It lists viruses that don’t actually exist on your computer, and even goes as far as displaying unsavory pop-ups to give you the impression you have been infected by a virus to encourage you to purchase the fake antivirus software. Doing so will compromise your credit card and likely result in significant unauthorized charges.


Coming next issue: Learn what to watch out for regarding fake antivirus scams that affect both Macs and PCs.

Tech Training Spotlight:

PowerPoint 2010 users learn to create presentations, format slides, draw objects or add graphics. Register now for the 4-hour PowerPoint 2010 Basic class scheduled on May 19.

For a complete listing of technical training resources, go to cit.cornell.edu/training. Have a question? Contact workshop-info@cornell.edu.
Parking system revamped to reflect campus changes

For the first time since 1997, the university is revamping its parking permit structure, and for the first time in four years it is changing parking rates. Both sets of changes begin to be phased in July 1, 2011.

These changes are designed to simplify the tier structure and permit types; provide greater flexibility in getting around campus; and correct inequities in fees. Transportation Services continues to provide incentives for sustainable commuting practices such as carpools and the use of public transit.

“Most permit holders will experience no change in their parking privileges or parking locations,” said Joseph M. Lalley III, senior director for facilities operations. “However, we are eliminating certain permit types. Permits from F and H will be merged with N; L merged with J; Y with U; and K permit areas will convert to either O or C permit parking.”

Instead of seven tiers, there will be four, based roughly on their proximity to central campus: an outer tier, perimeter tier, mid-campus tier and central-campus tier. People with permits within each tier can park in spaces designated for their permits and in all spaces in tiers lower than their own. The rate for C permits will decrease from the current rate by $1.34 semi-monthly; all others will increase between $.54 and $1.71 semi-monthly.

“We based the parking rates on such factors as availability of spaces, demand, and access to public transit,” said Lalley.

The outer tier (formerly Tier 1) includes permit types A and E and remains no-fee. The perimeter tier (formerly Tier 2) is made up of permit types CF, ME, O, R, T, W, WE. The permit rate will be $346.90 annually, or $14.45 semi-monthly. Permits will be valid in their respective permit areas, perimeter areas and outer tier lots.

The process for accessible parking has also changed. Beginning Sept. 1, 2011, the Cornell HP commuter permit will be replaced by a commuter permit and a fee corresponding to that permit. A state or municipal handicap placard or license plate will also be required if the employee wishes to use an accessible parking space in that lot.

Motorcyclists who have a current M (motorcycle) sticker will not be charged an annual permit fee. Their current sticker will continue to be valid as long as they own the motorcycle that this sticker is on, provided they re-register their motorcycle and permit number with Transportation Services by Jan. 2, 2012.

Beginning July 1, 2011, motorcyclists who have a commuter parking permit for their car have the option of listing their bike as an additional vehicle on the permit. They will be able to park either their car or their motorcycle in spaces covered by that permit. A separate M permit just for their motorcycle is not required. Those who currently do not have an M permit and want to park only in motorcycle spaces will need to purchase an annual M permit at a fee of $115.63.

For a map, see http://transportation.cornell.edu/tms/cms/parking/campusparking/upload/fac-staff-map05092011.pdf. For expanded information about the changes, see http://transportation.cornell.edu/tms/cms/parking/campusparking/2011-2012-Parking-Plan-and-Rates.cfm.

Make plans for summer camp at Cornell

Looking for ways to help your kids enjoy themselves this summer while making friends and learning something new? Cornell offers two sets of youth programs, one through Cornell’s Adult University (CAU) and one through the Department of Athletics and Physical Education. Both offer residential and commuter options.

Cornell’s Adult University options

Cornell’s Adult University offers full-day recreational and educational programs for kids ages 3-16, weekly from July 11 to August 5 – at discounted rates for children of Cornell employees and students. These programs provide a stimulating and kid-friendly environment in which your child or teen can explore the arts, sciences, and outdoor sports and skills supervised by caring, experienced counselors.

For Lil Bears (3-4), Tykes (5-6), and Explorers (7-8), the day begins with a morning of easy-going educational activities followed by lunch, afternoon recreation and workshops, healthy snacks and visits to places of interest at Cornell and in Ithaca. Programs for Big Reds (9-10) and Junior Cornellians (11-12) emphasize demonstrations and a hands-on approach to learning while introducing youth and young adolescents to college and career opportunities within a field of interest. The daily program for commuter children begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Teens (13-16) choose either a commuter or a residential option, which gives them the opportunity to experience dorm life, house rules and a coming-of-age independence (carefully supervised) on Cornell’s freshman campus. Either way, they’ll participate in a daily morning enrichment program of their choice, coordinated by a Cornell student mentor. Programs for teens include Outdoor Teen Adventures, Sailing on Cayuga, Veterinary Science and Poetry/Prose Slam. Afternoons and evenings are filled with recreational and cultural activities. For commuter teens, each day begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 10:00 p.m., lunch and dinner included.

Weekly program charges (ranging from $300 for Lil Bears to $970 for resident teens) will be discounted 20 percent for children of Cornell faculty, staff, and students. For more information or to register, visit www.cau.cornell.edu or call 607.255.6260.

Sports School options

The Cornell Sports School runs summer programs for boys and girls, ages 7-18. All camps are held at Cornell University and draw thousands of athletes from across the country and around the world. Camps are led by Cornell’s varsity coaches, their staff and current Cornell athletes. Many camps also feature guest coaches from other universities, as well as professional and Olympic athletes. There are both boy camps and girl camps in many sports, including basketball, fencing, golf, ice hockey, lacrosse, rock climbing, rowing, sailing, soccer, swimming, tennis, volleyball and more. For all camp options, prices, ages, dates and more information, see: www.campuslife.cornell.edu/campuslife/sportschool/index.cfm.

Keep informed; become a friend

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.
The Cornell Child Care Center has received accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), early education’s highest mark of quality. It is achieved by less than 8 percent of child care centers nationwide.

“We are grateful to the teachers and staff of the center and to Bright Horizons for their hard work in accomplishing this goal. This accreditation serves as further proof of our ongoing commitment to providing high-quality child care at the center,” said Mary George Opperman, vice president for human resources.

To attain accreditation, a child care center must undergo a series of inspections from the NAEYC accreditation board, meet strict quality criteria and comply with all state and local regulations. The accreditation provides a process through which early childhood professionals and families can evaluate programs, compare them with professional standards, strengthen programs and commit to ongoing evaluation and improvement.

“We are incredibly proud of our teachers and our program, and we are proud to be one of only three centers in Ithaca with NAEYC accreditation,” said Patti Sinclair, director of the Cornell Child Care Center.

The Cornell Child Care Center opened in August 2008 on Pleasant Grove Road in Ithaca to serve the children of Cornell’s faculty, staff, student and postdoctoral associate parents. The 16,240-square-foot facility can accommodate 48 infants, 50 toddlers and 60 preschool children. The center is operated by Bright Horizons Family Solutions.

More information about the NAEYC can be found at www.naeyc.org.

Nearly 400 children, accompanied by 320 parents, took advantage of the 65 learning sessions that were offered at Cornell’s Bring a Child to Work Day, April 28. More than 40 groups provided the learning sessions, which included a behind-the-scenes look at Cornell athletics; a hands-on introduction to Indonesian gamelan music; introduction to television, radio and magazines; a look at careers in the fashion industry; spiders; a tour of Minns Gardens and of the Cornell chimes; and sessions on robot-building and how to use a fire extinguisher.

“Children learn so much about the possibilities for their lives from all the sessions, and parents get to share a sense of pride in their work,” said Cheryl McGraw, event coordinator. “I would especially like to thank those groups who provided more than one learning session: the Vet College, Cornell Dining, the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, Cornell University Library, and Cornell Athletics and Physical Education,” she said.

Children learn possibilities for their lives’ at Bring a Child to Work Day

Families listen to a chimes concert as part of Bring Your Child to Work Day.

Families learn the moves of classical Indian dance led by Durga Bor at the Schwartz Center.

Cornell Child Care Center receives a top national accreditation
**Wellbeing Updates**

**Kerry Howell and Michelle Artibee**

Complete the Wellness Survey and become eligible for a massage!

Nonmembers as well as members are eligible for a free massage if they complete the Wellness survey at wellness.cornell.edu. The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete. Previous feedback led to such results as the Wellness Program’s offering of programming during non-traditional work hours, presenting lectures through webinar format for 24/7 viewing access and meeting with departments to discuss the use of flex/release time. To be entered into the free massage drawing, include your netID at the end of the survey.

Begin or renew Wellness Program membership

The Wellness membership year runs from July 1 through June 30 and costs $175. Your renewal process depends on your payment method.

- If you pay with payroll deduction and wish to:
  - continue your membership without interruption: your membership renewal will be automatic.
  - discontinue your membership on June 30, 2011 without penalty: contact Debbie Gatch at 255.5133 or dag7 before June 1, 2011.

- If you pay with check or credit card and wish to:
  - continue your membership without interruption: you must contact Debbie Gatch at 255.5133 or dag7 before June 1, 2011 with your payment information.
  - discontinue your membership: do nothing and it will automatically expire on June 30, 2011.

- If you participate with the CPHL insurance plan and have:
  - already told us of your participation: you do not need to contact us at this time. Your membership will continue through the calendar year.
  - not yet informed us of your participation: contact Debbie Gatch at 255.5133 or dag7.

WWW <Websites Worth Watching>

http://hr.cornell.edu/policies/all/disability_accommodation.html

**Learn Something New**

**Brush up on Windows and Office skills**

Looking to increase your computer software skills? Why not take a course, Essential Desktop Applications, through Cornell’s Summer Sessions? ILRHR2660 is a two-credit course offered during the three-week summer session, which runs June 1-24, Mon.–Fri., 9–10:45 a.m., Ives Computer Lab, 118a Ives Hall.

This course focuses on foundational material and creating efficiencies using Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Office software, as well as significant “tips and tricks” for Excel, PowerPoint and Access.

The course is geared toward students “summering over” in Ithaca, as well as staff and faculty who want to improve their computer proficiency. While attendance is mandatory, the instructor can be flexible with those who may have some vacation days planned during course hours.

For further information regarding course content, contact Christina Homrighouse at cmg4@cornell.edu. To enroll or for any other administrative questions, visit www.sce.cornell.edu.

**Your Library, Your Life**

**Jessica Withers**

Whenever the topic of hobbies comes up, people mention writing as a perennial favorite.

Cornell’s library owns many inspiring books about creative writing; searches using the keywords “authorship,” “creative writing” and “fiction technique,” for example, returned plenty of choices. Such contemporary novelists as Walter Mosley, Ursula K. Le Guin, Stephen King, Anne Lamott, Margaret Atwood and Elmore Leonard have written books for aspiring authors. Inspiration for writing poetry, too, can be found in the library collections: “Ordinary Genius: a Guide for the Poet Within,” by Kim Addonizio; “To Be the Poet,” by Maxine Hong Kingston; Ted Kooser’s “Poetry Home Repair Manual” and Bill Moyer’s “Fooling With Words,” to name a few.

Olin Library’s current periodical reading room also houses Poets & Writers magazine as well as numerous literary reviews and journals – all perfect for browsing while sitting in a comfortable chair.

Taking a writing class or workshop here at Cornell or elsewhere? Scholarly writing requires access to classic writing manuals like those from MLA or APA or “The Chicago Manual of Style,” all of which can be found at library reference desks across campus. To find guides to these resources, visit library.cornell.edu, click on “Research Help” and choose “Citation Management.”

For people who embrace writing in the blogosphere, several ebooks are available, too: “Publishing a Blog with Blogger” and “Create Your Own Blog.” Dom Sagolla’s “140 Characters: A Style Guide for the Short Form” discusses Twitter and Facebook messaging.

Whatever sparks your writing imagination, the library can offer resources to inform and inspire.

Not a writer? Curious about something else at the library? Email suggestions for future topics to jeh268@cornell.edu.
New facilities management system promises better, more economical service

BY SUSAN KELLEY

In welcoming a new, coordinated management system to Cornell’s Ithaca campus, Jim Kazda, facilities services senior director for Cornell’s contract colleges, tells a story about how, in the past, Cornell’s academic mission was affected by a lack of coordination between central and college facilities staff.

Not long ago, a new science professor needed an analytical instrument called a mass spectrometer. However, her lab’s mechanical systems weren’t designed to deal with the instrument’s heat output, so the temperature in the lab constantly fluctuated outside the equipment’s operating range.

In the past, the Division of Facilities Services would have asked the college to propose a solution, Kazda said. No longer. The new zone management system will help prevent misunderstandings by creating stronger partnerships between the facilities division and colleges, improving service and reducing costs through efficiencies. The system will eventually comprise four zones, each consisting of one area of campus.

On March 31, the division launched Zone 1, which covers the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS), Human Ecology, and Veterinary Medicine, and the ILR School. As Zone 1’s campus manager, Kazda is coordinating all facilities planning and work in the zone. “Now a college’s construction projects and grant applications are integrated into a single project, and they get accomplished seamlessly,” he said.

The system has been 18 months in the making as part of the university’s Administrative Streamlining Program, added Vice President for Facilities Services Kyu-Jung Whang. “This is a huge moment for us.”

The new system has many benefits, said campus facilities managers. Staff will find it easier to request electrical, plumbing or other trade-shop service. Each zone will have its own integrated trades crew, and staff will be able to call the zone’s trade crew superintendent, who will be accountable for the zone’s trade-shop work, said John Kiefer, director of facilities management who will be Zone 4’s campus manager.

The system will also better coordinate trade work, saving time and money, said Kristie Mahoney, the College of Human Ecology’s facilities director who is the initiative’s project manager. Much of the time dedicated to trade work is spent getting to and from each campus building. “If you can leverage an hour of mobilization and demobilization across three [service requests] that are together only an hour’s worth of tool time, and multiply that by the thousands of such opportunities that exist each year, that results in significant savings,” Mahoney said.

Perhaps most importantly, the system will allow facilities staff to make more strategic decisions, because the campus manager will be able to coordinate a building’s short-term service requests and long-term renovations and construction. “We may choose to patch something if we know we’re scheduled to do a major renovation in a facility in a year,” Kazda said. And the system provides a structure to meet both academic needs and facilities needs at the same time, said Dann Braid, Zone 1’s facilities manager. As a first step he and his colleagues, in collaboration with college facilities staff, have compiled and prioritized a list of each building’s deficiencies.

Upgrades to the campus asset-management software, Maximo, mean that unit and division staff can track the progress of a service request, from creation to completion, said Ezra Delaney, the CALS assistant dean for capital projects and facilities services.

The Facilities Services Zone Leadership Council, with representation from all the zones, has begun to meet monthly to oversee the new management system. “Hopefully we can create intrazone partnerships, so that one zone can learn from another,” Whang said. “We’re trying to break down silos. That is the goal.”

Learn Something New
Brush up on Windows and Office skills

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For further information regarding course content, contact Christina Homighouse at cmg4@cornell.edu. To enroll or for any other administrative questions, visit www.sce.cornell.edu.
In the January 20th issue of Pawprint, I provided an overview of the initiatives underway in the Facilities Services division as part of the Administrative Streamlining Program (ASP). The seven key areas of focus included a team dedicated to zone management. Headed by John Kiefer, Lori Barry and Karen Muckstadt, the initiative will implement a system that aligns staff with specific buildings in order to develop expertise within that area of campus while also maintaining consistency in standards for the entire campus.

We will be implementing the first phase of zone management in Zone 1, the contract colleges facilities, by the end of this month. Understanding that this is a new process that will bring about changes for staff who request and perform facilities-related needs, the following Q&A is meant to address questions that we have received and may arise as the process is implemented in subsequent areas of campus.

Q. How is a “zone” defined and determined?
A. Zones are designated areas of campus within which it has been determined there are efficiencies to be gained by focusing and combining facilities-related services. There are many types of zones: trade crew zones, building care zones, grounds zones, unit facilities zones, campus manager zones, etc. The purpose of organization at the zone level is to aggregate work such that it can be done by full-time, professional facilities staff and to dedicate that staff to specific areas of campus to foster partnerships and improve familiarity with facilities.

Q. How many zones will there be?
A. There will be three “main” zones: the Student and Academic Services zone, the endowed zone and the contract colleges zone. A campus manager and a zone facilities manager (ZFM) will head up each zone except in the case of the endowed zone, which will be split into two parts with each headed by a campus manager and a ZFM. We also expect there to be two trade crews per zone headed by a crew superintendent.

We don’t expect to change the existing building and grounds zones. Criteria for establishing the trade zones includes balancing the number and gross square footage of buildings with the appropriately sized trade crew; arranging the zone so that each unit facilities office will work with only one trade crew; and selecting buildings that are proximate to one another.

Q. How will academic and administrative units determine the base level of services and can they be customized?
A. Service Level Agreements are the mechanism by which the scope of services will be mutually agreed upon. The Governance and Accountability team is tasked with developing criteria for Service Level Agreements for the overall division of Facilities Services and for the units. The level of service will be a product of the needs of the units balanced with the expected level of service that FS can provide with the resource levels established for various services. It is important to note that the base level of services offered will be consistent across campus. Units will have the ability to buy a higher level of service if they feel that is required. Units are encouraged to discuss customized service levels, within certain limits, to meet their unique needs.

Q. How is this tied to the budget models?
A. Zones will be deployed using existing personnel within Facilities Management and the units and funding will follow the person in their new role. Other management costs around the new structure will be borne out of the overall funding strategies. Our goal is to balance additional costs with savings through efficiencies and reduction of duplications.

Q. What is the role of the “Zone Facilities Manager” and “Campus Manager”?
A. Key attributes include:

**Campus Manager (CM)**
- A strategic partner with the units in the zone on all facilities matters, including topics such as facilities master planning and capital planning. CMs are not expected to be involved with the day-to-day operations within the zone; however, they will serve as an important link between the unit facilities directors and the vice president of Facilities Services.
- Serves as a resource at a strategic level to the units in the zone on procurement of the diverse services provided by the Facilities division.

**Zone Facilities Manager (ZFM)**
- Serves as a technical resource and partner for unit Facilities Managers in the zones to maintain spaces in a manner consistent with the programs they support. The ZFM’s role will encompass all maintenance-related functions, including preventive, corrective, planned maintenances, grounds, building care and program upgrades. The ZFM will have knowledge of all maintenance and program work that is occurring in his or her zone.
- Works with zone crew leads and unit facilities staff at a strategic level to insure quality and consistency of services provided by central facilities crews.

Q. When is the zone management scheme going to be deployed?
A. Some components are already being deployed, such as the pilot trade crew and the campus manager roles. Zone 1 (contract colleges) will be implemented by the end of March and we are intending to have all remaining zone structures fully operational by the end of this fiscal year.

Q. How will we know if we saved money?
A. One of the indicators being used to track costs is the comparison of the number of trade people engaged in corrective and preventive maintenance prior to zone management, and those after implementation. As part of the ASP process, the number of trade staff in the Shops dedicated to corrective and preventive maintenance has been significantly lowered over a two-year period.

I encourage you to contact me at kw253@cornell.edu or the project manager, Kristie Mahoney, at km285@cornell.edu with any questions or concerns that you may have as we deploy these strategies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our organization.

**More information about the Facilities ASP:**
- On the ASP website: [http://asp.dpb.cornell.edu/initiatives/facilities/](http://asp.dpb.cornell.edu/initiatives/facilities/)
- On the new zone management website: [www.fs.cornell.edu/fs/zone_mgmt/](http://www.fs.cornell.edu/fs/zone_mgmt/)
- At Chronicle Online: "Facilities streamlining should save up to $16 million a year" [www.news.cornell.edu/stories/Nov10/ASPFacilities.html](http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/Nov10/ASPFacilities.html)
- "Campus managers to partner with units, colleges" [www.news.cornell.edu/stories/Jan11/CampusManagers.html](http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/Jan11/CampusManagers.html)
PAWPRINT PICKS

MIGRATION CELEBRATION

The fifth annual Migration Celebration is May 14, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. This family-friendly event encourages everyone to get outside to learn more about birds, nature, and conservation as spring and migrating birds return to the Finger Lakes. Admission is free. Exhibits and activities will focus on the incredible journeys made by migrating birds and highlight scientific work being done at the lab. Visitors can go on guided bird walks in Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary, take nest-monitoring walks, watch bird-banding demonstrations, and learn how bird “point counts” are done. Other exhibits will provide information about creating bird-friendly backyards using native plants. The Cornell Raptor Program will feature live eagles, owls, and hawks, with experts on hand to explain the habits of these fascinating birds. For more information, visit www.birds.cornell.edu/birdday or call 254.2473 or (800) 843.BIRD.

ART EXHIBIT AT THE PLANTATIONS

An exhibition of the work of Carol Abitablio Ast, “Changing Vistas: Arboretum Landscapes in Pastels,” will be on display through May 31 at the Brian C. Nevin Welcome Center, in the botanical garden of Cornell Plantations. Ast rediscovered her love of landscape in Ithaca and began seriously painting with pastels again about 15 years ago. The three-dimensional forms of rocks, trees and clouds have always been major factors in her choices of subjects. Ast’s paintings have been appreciated for the feelings of peace and serenity they convey.

GANNETT LAB DIRECTOR TO LECTURE ON OVER-DIAGNOSED CANCER

William Shang, M.D., board-certified anatomic and clinical pathologist, and director of the Allyn B. Ley Laboratory, Gannett Health Services of Cornell University, and the Cortland Regional Medical Center Laboratory, will present the lecture, “Is Cancer Over-Diagnosed?” May 17 at 7 p.m., Tompkins County Public Library, Borg Warner Room, co-sponsored by the Cornell Campus Club and the Tompkins County Public Library.

Shang will provide a thought-provoking talk about a phenomenon well-known within the medical profession: while more cancer is being detected and more people treated, the death rate is largely unchanged for melanoma and other such types of cancer as breast, thyroid and prostate. Conventional wisdom is that more prevention, especially early diagnosis, means better medical care. Well-meaning advocacy groups, malpractice awards, hospitals, specialists and drug company marketing all encourage cancer screening. But early diagnosis not only escalates health care costs but can lead to anxiety and unnecessary treatment that may harm patients, says Shang.

SOUNDS OF WHALES AND ELEPHANTS

Professor Katy Payne, visiting fellow in the Bioacoustics Research Program of the Laboratory of Ornithology and founder of the Elephant Listening Project, will present the talk, “Whales, Elephants, and Wilderness,” May 19, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Boyce Thompson Institute Auditorium. Refreshments will be served after 10 a.m.; the lecture starts at 10:30 a.m. The lecture is sponsored by the Cornell Association of Professors Emeriti. Payne grew up on a farm near Taughannock Park. The park was scantily visited in those days, and in the upper gorge -- wild, unfenced, dangerous and inviting – Payne spent much time watching and listening, and later became an acoustic biologist. Payne focused for 20 years on the songs of whales and for 20 on the voices of elephants. The calls of whales and elephants reveal previously unimagined aspects of their experience as social animals: Payne will illustrate a few of these with sound and visual images. For more information: elephantlisteningproject.org.

MAYFEST, MAY 20-25

Cornell’s 4th Annual International Chamber Music Festival, featuring music from Ravel, Mozart, Schubert, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Bach, Schumann, Richard Strauss, Steven Stuckey, and Dvorak, will be held May 20-25. Directed by Xak Bjerken and Mira Yampolsky, the festival will feature guest local artists, violinists Philippe Graffin and Tatiana Samouil, violinist Guy Ben-Ziony, cellist Clancy Newman, clarinetist Chen Halevi and soprano Iride Martinez. For times and locations, see http://mayfest-cornell.org. Tickets ($20 general, $8 students for each concert; $85 for complete series) available at Ticket Center Ithaca (273.4497, 171 The Commons, service fee additional), on line through IthacaEvents.com, and at the door.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR COMMENCEMENT

Volunteer for Commencement, May 29, and earn a chance to win a free iPad or trip for two to NYC and stay at the Cornell Club. About 300 volunteers help at Commencement each year. Volunteers are granted one paid time-off day, equivalent to that person’s standard work day; receive breakfast Sunday morning; a gift; and an invitation to President David Skorton’s thank-you reception in June. To sign up as a volunteer, go to: www.commencement.cornell.edu/May/ushers/index.html. Questions? Contact the Commencement Office, commencement@cornell.edu or 255.9541.

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