About 400 custodial staff joined Phil Bartels ’71, his wife, Susan, and daughter Katie ’06, along with Facilities Services leadership to recognize recipients of the Bartels Award for Custodial Service Excellence and Bartels Scholarships Dec. 15.

Also present were Craig Beaver, the former custodian whose kindness to Katie eight years ago led to creation of the Bartels Award; and Rob Osborn, former director of Building Care, who worked with Phil Bartels to establish and endow the Bartels award and scholarships.

Each year, six custodial staff members from across campus are chosen from nominations by their leaders to receive the Bartels Award for Custodial Excellence, which includes a public announcement, certificate of recognition and monetary award. Bartels Scholarships are given each year to staff members and to children with a parent who is a Building Care staff member to help with the cost of college.

“You have given us … the knowledge that we truly do make a difference at Cornell … you have made us feel special,” said Steve Devlen, zone facilities director, addressing the Bartels family, and “for that we cannot thank you enough.” Ben Kuo, associate vice president for facilities management, thanked staff for the work they do – “unheard, unseen and unsung … because it is done so well” – and paid tribute to the role of the Bartels family for “giving us the opportunity to be able to recognize you and thank you.”

Phil Bartels thanked the custodial staff for their commitment to the university and paid special tribute to 12 Building Care staff members who have received their United States citizenship since the program started.

This year’s Bartels’ winners are:

- Roxanne Doty, known for her smile, her work ethic and her sense of “humor, confidence, intelligence and overall good nature.” Her colleagues say Doty takes pride in her work, which is excellent and thorough, and has a positive outlook that is greatly appreciated.

- Kevin Mitchell, known to be kind, hardworking and “the guy you rely on in stressful situations.” Mitchell, who began working at Cornell in 2007, is a “natural leader … with a gift to inspire employees in positive ways,” said Devlen.

- Head custodian Neil Kelly, commended for his “great service and professionalism,” by Cornell administrators. According to Osborn, Kelly is “always upbeat, always cheerful … an inspiration and stellar example.”

- Daniel Ben-David, a member of the Collegetown grad complex team. He is known for consistently supporting the student community in even the most sensitive matters and for his excellent communication skills and his ability to bridge language and cultural differences.

- Charlene Uhrovčík, who is “has a great sense of humor, makes work fun and is contagious with her laughter.” She is known for her dedication and conscientiousness, and is always ready to volunteer her time and help with last-minute details.

- Kim Umbrell, who came to Cornell in 2002. She has provided custodial assistance for restrooms at Schoellkopf Field during Commencement and is respected not only for her work ethic but also for her willingness to help out whenever needed.

Receiving a Bartels Employee Scholarship for 2014-15 was Marjorie Burke, who is working toward her bachelor’s degree in human resources. Six children of Cornell custodial staff received scholarships. Hector Santana Jr. attends Ithaca College, along with his brother Orlay, who received a scholarship two years ago. Tucker Uhrovčík, whose mother, Charlene, received a Bartels Award this year, is working on his associate degree in criminal justice. Also receiving scholarships were Troy Sutfin, Stephanie Naylor, Samantha Baker and Cornell student Joshua Miller.

UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHY
BARTELS Award for Custodial Service Excellence and BARTELS Scholarships

Bartels awardee Roxanne Doty is congratulated by (left to right, back row) Rob Osborn, Phil Bartels ’71, Susan Bartels, Katie Bartels ’06 and Rick Jordan.

Bartels awardee Neil Kelly is congratulated by (left to right, back row) Rob Osborn, Phil Bartels ’71, Susan Bartels and Katie Bartels ’06.

Bartels awardee Charlene Uhrovick is congratulated by (left to right, back row) Rob Osborn, Susan Bartels, Katie Bartels ’06, Phil Bartels ’71 and Rick Jordan.

Bartels awardee Daniel Ben-David is congratulated by (left to right, back row) Rob Osborn, Susan Bartels, Katie Bartels ’06, Phil Bartels ’71 and Cindy Lockwood.

Bartels awardee Kim Umbrell is congratulated by (left to right, back row) Rob Osborn, Katie Bartels ’06, Susan Bartels, Phil Bartels ’71 and Ginny Wright.

Bartels awardee Kevin Mitchell is congratulated by (left to right, back row) Rob Osborn, Phil Bartels ’71, Susan Bartels, Katie Bartels ’06 and Steve Devlen.
About 400 custodians gathered Dec. 15 to recognize the 2014 Bartels awards and scholarships recipients.

Centerpieces were given to lucky staff members at the closing of the 2014 Bartels awards and scholarships event.

A staff member congratulates her colleagues.

Phil Bartels ’71, at the 2014 Bartels awards and scholarships event.

Bartels scholarship recipients Tucker Uhrovčik and Josh Miller (center) are congratulated by (left to right) Julie Parsons, Rob Osborn, Katie Bartels ’06, Susan Bartels, Phil Bartels ’71, Steve Devlen, and Rick Jordan, Cindy Lockwood, Ginny Wright, Ben Kuo and Kyu-Jung Whang.

A staff member at the 2014 Bartels awards and scholarships event.
Ithaca mayor to launch 8th annual Soup and Hope series

The eighth annual Soup and Hope series kicks off with Mayor Svante Myrick ’09, speaking Jan. 15 at Sage Chapel at noon. Cornell Dining will provide soup and bread for those who attend. The event is free and open to the public.

Myrick was sworn into office in January 2012 and became, at age 24, the City of Ithaca’s youngest mayor and first mayor of color. He had been first elected to the Common Council at the age of 20 while still a junior at Cornell.

During his tenure as mayor, Myrick has overhauled the city’s government, closed a $3 million budget deficit, brought fireworks back to the City of Ithaca on the Fourth of July, brought revisions to the city’s sidewalk policy and storm water utility legislation, moved forward the rehabilitation of the Ithaca Commons and helped improve police and community relations.

Over the past seven years, nearly 40 speakers have touched, inspired, motivated, and stirred the hearts of those who gather during the winter months at Sage Chapel for the biweekly Soup and Hope series of personal stories. Stories have come from a wide range of Cornell staff, faculty, students and alumni and community members. They are shared among friends and colleagues, over bowls of hot soup and bread.

Future speakers include:
- January 29: Brian Patchcoski
- February 12: Rebecca DeRoller
- February 26: Ella Diaz
- March 12: Kelechi Umoga
- March 26: Linda Majani

Soup and Hope is sponsored by Cornell Dining, Cornell United Religious Work (CURW) and Gannett Health Services, with support from Engaged Learning + Research, the Office of the Ombudsman, and Residential and New Student Programs.

They’re gonna live forever

Funny, sad, angry and heart-rendingly beautiful: Running to Places (R2P) production of “Fame, the Musical” has all the highs and lows of real teenage life. The energetic cast pours its heart into this fast-paced, emotionally complex show, Jan. 16-18 at the State Theatre of Ithaca.

During rehearsal, a visit by Joel Malina, vice president for university relations, who played Schlomo in the original pre-Broadway production of “Fame,” motivated the cast, says Joey Steinhagen, R2P’s artistic director.

The cast features the children of many Cornell staff, including Kamryn Phlegar, daughter of Charles Phlegar, vice president for alumni affairs and development, who plays Iris, a talented dancer.

The show runs Jan. 16-18, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets:

TCAT bus routes change effective Jan. 11

Significant changes for Tompkins County Area Transit (TCAT) bus routes 81, 82 and 83, and some changes in timing for other routes, take effect Jan. 11. A summary of the major changes is in Pawprint on the web at http://pawprint.cornell.edu/?q=articles/2014/12/tcat-bus-routes-to-change-jan-11.

More information concerning the details of these changes can be found beginning the first two weeks of January at www.tcatbus.com and at major stops on campus.