Employee Celebration attracts record turnout

BY NANCY DOOLITTLE

A record 2,007 tickets — 500 more than last year — were sold for the Feb. 12 Winter Employee Celebration Day — and many of the ticketholders turned out to watch Cornell’s women’s ice hockey champions handily defeat Yale, 7-1, in Lynah Rink just before going to the community dinner in the Ramin Room, Bartels Hall.

In addition to enjoying the chicken parmesan and pasta dinner, faculty, staff, retirees and their families were entertained by McGruff the Crime Dog, Crossroad Clown and Cornell cheerleaders. Also featured at the community dinner were door prizes, displays and activities by Cornell Police, Environmental Health and Safety, Transportation and Mail Services, the Department of Physics and Physical Education, the Employee Assembly, the Division of Human Resources, SR Operations and the United Way.

“I’d especially like to thank Cornell Catering, Athletics and Building Care for the extra effort it took to prepare dinner for this large number of people,” said Cheryl McGraw, manager for employee outreach and connections and coordinator of Employee Celebration Day. “I’d also like to thank the planning team, including new members Carol Komaromi, Laura Haley and Tammy Lopez, and the more than 100 Cornell staff, faculty, retirees and students who volunteered for the event.

The evening wrapped up at the men’s basketball game, where during half-time, staff members and students working on this year’s Cornell United Way Campaign presented a check for a record-breaking $792,637 to the United Way of Tompkins County as Cornell’s contribution. Cornell lost the game to Princeton, 55-57, in the final seconds.

Employee Assembly this spring

BY TANYA GROVE

As chair of the Employee Assembly (EA), I’m pleased to announce that following a recent resolution approved by President David Skorton, the EA is increasing its membership size from 13 to 19 representatives. As a result, I am asking all Cornell staff members who are interested in having a voice on matters concerning staff, and in contributing to staff representation on campus, to consider running for an EA seat this spring.

The EA voted to increase its membership to assure better campus staff representation as well as gain broader committee involvement in reaching EA goals. It is my hope that, by enlarging our membership, we can better address the diverse opinions and viewpoints of the campus staff community — something we’ve been anxious to do for a number of years.

The new membership also removes former contract college and endowed restrictions upon candidates, allowing for any interested parties to run for the EA regardless of college affiliation and slots available. As elected representatives, we are committed to making the campus a better working environment by representing employees to the administration through shared governance.

Six current members of the EA will be returning for another term, the additional seats on the assembly will result in a total of 13 open seats for the 2011-12 academic year.

Not sure yet? Feel free to give me a call (254-2719) or send an email (TLGrove@cornell.edu) with any questions you may have. I’ve truly enjoyed my work with the assembly over the past two years and would be happy to talk with you about the work we do, our goals and how you can become part of the shared governance system at Cornell.

Interested candidates should fill out a candidacy statement on the EA website (assembly.cornell.edu/EA/Home) and start spreading the word about the elections. Election materials will be available online on Feb. 17. Candidates are strongly encouraged to attend one of two non-mandatory campaign meetings on either Mar. 23 or 29 at 12:15 p.m., 316 Day Hall. Voting begins on April 11 and ends on April 22 and will be available online at the EA website.

Tanya Grove is chair of the Employee Assembly.
**Tech Talk**

Shaley DeGiorgio

**Go green at CUWebLogin**

With the media, Cornell IT Security team, and your co-workers always helping you avoid time wasting and the web can be, what assurances do you have that it’s even your own extended validation certificates (EV Certs) can take some of the pres- sure off, by helping you verify at a glance whether you are visiting what it claims to be?

EV Certs are easy to spot: look for a distinctive color in the address bar of your browser. Green means it’s secure off, by helping you verify at a glance certificates (EV Certs) can take some of the pres- sure off, by helping you verify at a glance.

If you see yellow or red in your address bar, or a warning window pops up, be very cautious. Something in the website’s certificate doesn’t match up: it’s possible that it expired, or the website you are visiting has been faked as a fraud.

Bad guys are good at what they do, so they might create a site called cornell.edu, for example, using Cornell’s name in the URL and even encrypting the site (typically showing the color blue, a padlock, or https), so getting an EV Cert for a non-cornell site should be impossible.

EV Certs are harder to fake, which is why they are becoming increasingly more popular. When you navigate your browser to a website that has its identity verified by a Certificate Authority, the green color dis- plays in your address bar and you feel a little more assured about the trustworthi- ness of the site.

See www.cabforum.org for a list of extended validation guidelines (steps required before a Certificate Authority issues an EV Cert), and a current list of Certificate Au- thority Browser Forum members.

**Tech Training Spotlight:**

In Powerpoint, learn to create presenta- tions, format slides, draw objects or add graphics. Register now for a four-hour workshop 2009 at 10:00 am in mid-March.

For a complete list of training teaching resources, see www.cornell.edu/cornell-training⊠

> **Eames-Sheavly stresses need to slow down and ‘celebrate the ordinary’**

**D**epartment of Horticulture’s Marcia Eames-Sheavly is a gardener, artist, lecturer, senior extension associate and 4-H youth development specialist who delivers pleasure from packing, mus- and cooking. She drew upon her experiences of these ordinary activities to remind her audience of more than 100 at the Feb. 3 Soup and Hope talk at Sage Chapel to slow down, approach the world with awe and help others do the same.

> **SMART EATING FOR YOUR BUSY LIFE**

Beth McIlvain and Beth Held-Doyle, the Wellness Program, will talk about meal plan- ning and cooking tips to help you on Feb. 28, noon- 1 pm, at the Marriott Courtyard (at the an- staff). Learn the basics of preparing balanced meals for individuals and families in the go, gain knowledge of basic nutrition and meal planning, and share your ideas with others. No registration, free parking, healthy snacks pro- vided.

> **ARTIST’S TALK**

Howard Finell will speak about his work in connection with the University’s Project: 80 structure. Celebrating 75 years of the American Abstract Artists’ (AAA) annual exhibitions, and being one of five artists selected for the exhibition, he will talk about the art world and the AAA, the history of his work, and give a slide show of his work.

He is the founder of President Obama’s Advisory Committee on the Arts and Humanities and the United States Commission on Fine Arts. He has participated in over 200 group and 50 solo exhibitions, including the Whitney Museum, the Met, the Guggenheim Museum, and the Renwick Gallery, to name a few.

> **LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY MONDAY NIGHT SEMINAR**

Richard Crabtree, pending photographer and author, will present the Feb. 28 Monday Night Seminar at the Lab of Ornithology. 155 Sage Chapel at 7:45 pm. This is a family-friendly event, so bring the kids! Tickets available at www.cornell.com/events/ or by contacting Kevin Moss, km274@cornell.edu.

> **CONFER WING**

Cornell University’s Jean Lasserre and Neil, with Paul Merwin, director, will present a “Wing” Feb. 25 at 10 am, FCLC, featuring the Cornell big-birds, with guest vocal- 

> **SAYON CLOVER**

Tay installation in Ades Hall 700, 8 am-9:30 pm, 28 Feb 2010.

> **CONSERVANT**

Mike Meade, conservant of the Cornell Natural History Museum, will hold a workshop on ways to maintain your brain and health while aging. Feb. 28, noon-1 pm, 205 Sage Hall. Open to the Cornell community. RSVP to 256-4080.

> **SOUPLAND**

Wednesday March 4 and Soup and Hope, noon- 2 pm, Sage Chapel. Tickets available at www.birds. cornell.edu/events/

> **BLACK GOSPEL WEEKEND**

The 14th Annual Festival of Black Gospel Weekend will be March 4-6. More information to come at www.birds.cornell.edu/events/
Call for Cornell Tradition senior nominations

Do you know of a Cornell Tradition senior who has outstanding service and leadership through work and volunteer activities? The Cornell Tradition is seeking nominations for members who have excelled in identifying and nominating deserving Cornell Tradition seniors for The Cornell Tradition Senior Recognition Award. This award is given annually up to ten Cornell Tradition Fellows.

Each recipient of The Cornell Tradition Senior Recognition Award will have the opportunity to name a one-year Tradition Fellowship in the amount of $4,000 for a continuing Tradition student during the 2011-2012 academic year. In addition, each recipient will be selected to provide a $500 contribution to the non-profit agency of their choice. Past recipients have included the Ithaca Youth Bureau, Women for Women International, and the Humane Society.

See the Cornell Tradition website, at http://commitment.cornell.edu/tradition/TractionHome.php for a list of eligible Cornell Tradition Fellows and the nomination form, as well as for more information about The Cornell Tradition. You are welcome to nominate more than one Tradition Fellow. Nominated students will be invited to submit additional materials.

Gannett sees rise in flu incidents

Although winter is nearly half over, Gannett Health Services has seen a rapid increase in the number of students with influenza-like symptoms. A week or so into the pandemic may be behind us, but seasonal influenza continues to cause serious illness.

Reduce the risk of illness by taking the following measures:

• Get vaccinated. Flu vaccine is updated each year to contain different flu viruses. This year’s vaccine is a good match to viruses currently in circulation. So, even if you got vaccinated last year, get vaccinated with the 2010/2011 vaccine. Remember: flu continues to circulate even into the warmer months. The vaccine only takes two weeks to be effective and it will offer protection throughout the season. Flu shots and nasal FluMist are still available and free to all staff, faculty, and registered students. Call Gannett at 255.5155 to schedule an appointment at a time that is convenient for you.

• Maintain good hygiene. Wash your hands; use hand sanitizers; cover coughs and sneezes, and keep your distance from people who are sick. Regularly clean shared spaces and equipment, including keyboards, phones and door handles.

• Review information about signs, symptoms, and care for the flu before you need them.

• Educate others by downloading and printing the posters available through the Gannett website.

Gannett advises that if you get sick:

• Go home, take care, and stay out of work, classes, and other social situations until fever-free for 24 hours. Fever should be absent without the use of fever-reducing medicines. Notify instructors and supervisors of your need to miss work, class, and deadlines.

• Consult by phone with a medical provider if you have worsening symptoms or such underlying health conditions as asthma, diabetes, immune suppression, pregnancy or diseases of the lungs, heart, kidneys and liver. Students can call Gannett 24/7.

• Do not rush your recovery and risk a setback. Be aware you can transmit virus for several days after symptoms subside, so avoid close contact and stay home as much as possible.

• People who are very sick with flu and those with certain medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, chronic illness, pregnancy, or compromised immune system) should consult with their provider about taking antiviral medications as Tamiflu. These prescription drugs, if given in the first 24 to 48 hours, can help you feel better, shorten the illness and reduce the risk of complications.

For more information, visit http://unitedway.cornell.edu/flu.

On “Staff Notes” Vicki Davis, enjoying new things

“Any job you could possibly desire is probably available at Cornell,” says Vicki Davis, assistant to the director of utilities, Jim Adams, in the Energy and Sustainability Department.

She should know. The 23-year Cornell employee and Trumansburg native has been an accounts rep, sold typewriters, and then computers, and directed marketing efforts for what is now the Technology Connection in the Cornell Store before joining the Utilities Department in 1998.

“For or five years we decided they started to combine the heat and power project. I was up for new challenges, so the project manager and project executive suggested I become the project coordinator,” she says. “It was a little risky on their parts since I had never done anything like this, but we had a great time and I learned a lot.”

Vicki works in Humphreys Service Building, the nerve center of Cornell’s utilities infrastructure. “It’s a place to be proud of,” she says. “It’s a fantastic track record.”

“Not too many people know we exist,” she laughs. “But it’s a great environment to work in. I like working with engineers. They’re very direct and know what they want. I’ve also been able to do the more creative parts of the project, as the project architect, like planning and designing the new internal spaces to be more ‘user friendly’ for the staff, especially when we created a full-scale mock-up of the central energy plant’s control room to help an operator respond appropriately to an emergency.”

Asked what she likes best about Cornell, Vicki points to the diversity and opportunity to do new things.

“When I needed a challenge I was able to get it,” she says.

Visit “Staff Notes” on CornellCast to learn more about Vicki and her work: www.cornell.edu/video/video/2011/57/08/senior/sec=682&sec=436

Upcoming book events at The Cornell Store

The Cornell Store continues with book readings, discussions and discounts for the spring semester. The next two, with 20 percent discounts on the featured books, are:

“Who Gets Represented?” Peter Enns, assistant professor of government, will discuss his recent work, “Who Gets Represented?” Feb. 23 at 4:30 p.m., The Cornell Store, with book signing to follow. While it is often assumed that policymakers favor the interests of some citizens at the expense of others, it is not always evident when and how groups’ interests differ or what it means when they do. Featuring some of the finest political scientists working on areas of representation and inequality, “Who Gets Represented?” offers important and surprising answers to the question it raises.

“How To Leave Hialeah” Jennine Capó Cruz ’03, an Arts and Sciences alum whose debut book, “How To Leave Hialeah,” won the Iowa Short Fiction Award and the John Gardner Book Award, will read from her work, Nov. 2 at 3 p.m. Using humor and compassion, Cruz expands our ideas and our expectations of Miami and captures the voices of the predominantly Hispanic-working-class neighborhoods of Hialeah in this collection of stories.