Cross Country Gourmet helps Cornell maintain its stellar reputation

By Nancy Doolittle

On two evenings in April, more than 1,860 diners at Robert Purcell Community Center and 900 at Apple Commons enjoyed pretzel-encrusted pork chops, pan-seared Colorado striped bass, roasted beet and green apple soup, as part of the Cross Country Gourmet program.

Cornell executive chefs Steve Miller and Harold Evans prepared these culinary gems using recipes from the Grouse Mountain Grill in Vail, Colo., owned by Nancy Dowell (mom to engineering student Jackson Dowell '12). The program, which began more than 35 years ago, exposes Cornell students – both as dining staff and as diners – to new cuisine and regional specialties.

The specialty meal is also open to the public for a set price (students on the meal plan get a discount).

Recent visiting chefs hail from Marnee Thai restaurant in San Francisco, and Devi, an Indian restaurant in New York City.

"It's all about the students," said Apple Commons head chef Harold Evans. "They get to see something special in food."

For these events, tables are set with linen and the lights dimmed, while the restaurant's owners or chefs circulate around the room.

The formal dinner also gives students the opportunity to practice dining in settings more formal than many of them are accustomed to, said Evans.

The visiting chefs also learn from the program, said Miller, who has worked at Cornell for 16 years and has executed 31 Cross Country Gourmet programs. "They were really interested in learning a lot about production at a large scale, which they can then apply if they go into catering or holding conventions."

As for the Cornell chefs, the program helps them experiment with new recipes and techniques, knowing they have the safety net of those who previously have made the recipes nearby, said Matt Cochran, Cornell Catering banquet manager, who helped coordinate the event and hosted an informal tour of Ithaca for the visitors before they left town.

Some of the dishes later become standard fare for Cornell Dining, such as the Indian food offered at Trillum and the fusion food in Willard Straight, helping students and chefs "stay on trend."

"We have a creative, state-of-the-art dining program at Cornell," said Miller, noting that the health and wellness teams and the Cornell Dining executive chefs engage Cornellians in efforts to improve Cornell Dining’s ability to serve a high-caliber food to so many people. "They appreciated the little things that make the difference," he said.

As for the Cornell chefs, the program helps them experiment with new recipes and techniques, knowing they have the safety net of those who previously have made the recipes nearby, said Matt Cochran, Cornell Catering banquet manager, who helped coordinate the event and hosted an informal tour of Ithaca for the visitors before they left town.

Some of the dishes later become standard fare for Cornell Dining, such as the Indian food offered at Trillum and the fusion food in Willard Straight, helping students and chefs "stay on trend."

"We have a creative, state-of-the-art dining program at Cornell," said Miller, noting that the health and wellness teams and the Cornell Dining executive chefs engage Cornellians in efforts to improve Cornell Dining’s ability to serve a high-caliber food to so many people. "They appreciated the little things that make the difference," he said.

Cornellians Aiding and Responding to Employees (CARE) Fund now facing an emergency of its own

By Amanda Garris

I can take a single unexpected emergency – a house fire, a medical emergency, a job loss – to deplete a family’s financial reserves. For years, members of the Cornell community have provided assistance through the Cornellians Aiding and Responding to Employees (CARE) Fund, but unprecedented needs have exhausted the fund, and organizers are seeking donations from $5 to $500.

"For many years the fund, formerly known as the Emergency Grant Fund, allocated just one or two awards per year," said Beth McKinney, chair of the CARE Fund committee and director of the Cornell Student United Way. "However, since November we have received 27 requests. It’s unnerving that there are so many Cornell employees in financial trouble through no fault of their own."

The CARE Fund assists employees experiencing financial hardship with one-time assistance up to $2,500. Funds are entirely by Cornell community donations. It helps leaders and staff who have experienced a sudden financial hardship due to an unforeseen or unavoidable event. All full- or part-time employees holding a benefits-eligible position and employed at Cornell for at least six months are eligible to apply.

"No one likes to ask for help. But if you have to, and someone is there to help, it’s a great thing," said a 2010 CARE Fund recipient. "The assistance makes me very gratified to have served here for nearly 30 years."

Since its re-launch in November 2010, the fund has made 10 awards totaling more than $15,000 to employees coping with hardships including house fires and accidents. According to McKinney, the fund is usually replenished through an annual auction which will be held in October, but to meet the current high level of need – they receive new requests every week – they need donations now. Donations are tax-deductible and can be made at any time or through regular payroll deduction.

"When the fund was first opened, we are able to help more people, and help them in a higher quality way," said McKinney. "Recipients find the generosity of their coworkers an unexpected and meaningful gift."

For more information on donating to the CARE fund, visit http://hr.cornell.edu/le/supports_care_fund.html, e-mail facultystaffgiving-mailbox@cornell.edu or call 254.6814.

Amanda Garris is a freelance writer in Geneva, NY.
**Two students and staff named local heroes**

**By Nancy Gogutl**

Michael Hyun ‘11 and Heather Schopfer ‘12, and Peter Smallwood, director of the Keck Laboratory, were recently recognized as “Touchmarks,” at the Red Tails 2011 Real Peeps Award breakfast April 29 at the Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3) Field House.

Each recipient was supported by a local organization and chosen based on merit and community service.

The Adult Good Samaritan award, sponsored by Paul Talty, was given to Hyun and Schopfer for their roles in saving the life of a first-year student who suffered a seizure and went into cardiac arrest Oct. 16, 2010, in the sub-basement of Kroch Library. Hyun had taken emergency medical training courses over the summer, the same classes that Schopfer had attended in the fall.

Hyun, who is a Mac and you pop-ups, believes “there’s something wrong with your ‘C-drive’ is a computer virus,” considers the seizure a stroke and never took a paramedic training course.

Smallwood, who was present at the event for his second year as a member of Cornell University Emergency Medical Service who was on duty by himself that day, responded with emergency response staff from Environmental Health & Safety and brought him to the campus hospital and then called 911.

The student was revived and has fully recovered.

The Smith Campus Center, created to encourage local businesses to place signs in a college installation (MAC). Defender uses the normal protocol to install something, but if you’re not there and if you’re not sure of what’s going on, the student could have locked things up.

Cornell has a site for the home page of the campus, but there is a lot of marketing that the system isn’t fully developed. It has a lot of work to do.

Awards to other local individuals included those given for animal rescue, industry, safety, and industry and social leadership.

**On Staff Notes**

Andrea Haenlin-Mott: Putting accessibility on the (campus) map

Getting around a campus that is basically on the ground level is relatively easy. It is tricky for individuals with mobility and accessibility, and especially for the population of student disability services, to study both existing and planned facilities at Cornell. They have examined several existing buildings, such as the ILR School and the active and planned college buildings.

“Having it is everything,” she says. “This includes the four priorities for barrier removal. Can you get the buildings around the construction? Are you changing the construction? Are you changing the design?”

Haenlin-Mott and her colleagues look at more than just physical access issues. They also study the needs of people with visual, hearing, and other disabilities. Closed captioning for videos is an example of accessibility.

She has also made adjustments to the offices of individuals, such as a staff member with a hearing disability whose office now features a visual alarm.

Her favorite project so far is:

“Getting the accessible bathroom installed in the library. It was certainly a favor,” she says. “It’s a very complicated building. Prior to the installation someone who was a handi-vision

The focus of this course is foundational material, focusing on different topics in Microsoft Office—PowerPoint, Excel, Access etc. Students will also learn about accessibility and space science staff members about the 2010 ada standards for new software.

Cornell’s Robert Trent Jones Golf Course and The Country Club of Ithaca [CCI]. Play two of the best courses with disabilities, to study both existing and planned facilities at Cornell. They have examined several existing buildings, such as the ILR School and the active and planned college buildings.

“Having it is everything,” she says. “This includes the four priorities for barrier removal. Can you get the buildings around the construction? Are you changing the construction? Are you changing the design?”

Haenlin-Mott and her colleagues look at more than just physical access issues. They also study the needs of people with visual, hearing, and other disabilities. Closed captioning for videos is an example of accessibility.

She has also made adjustments to the offices of individuals, such as a staff member with a hearing disability whose office now features a visual alarm.

Her favorite project so far is:

“Getting the accessible bathroom installed in the library. It was certainly a favor,” she says. “It’s a very complicated building. Prior to the installation someone who was a handi-vision

The focus of this course is foundational material, focusing on different topics in Microsoft Office—PowerPoint, Excel, Access etc. Students will also learn about accessibility and space science staff members about the 2010 ada standards for new software.

New book helps staff members identify, form bonds, and promote student well-being

BY SUSAN KELLEY

When Tom Keane heard Cornell had a new handbook to help employees recognize and respond to student stress, he got one for every member of his office.

“Staff understand that lending a hand or a set of ears to someone in distress can only help the situation,” said Keane, director of financial aid and scholarship policies for Cornell. “The handbook reminds us that we not only have permission to help – even if the help is just to let your supervisor know you observed a student in distress – but that we also have a responsibility to help.”

Some 3,000 copies of the publication, “Recognizing and Responding to Students in Distress: A Staff Handbook,” can be distributed to all staff who have contact with students. A PDF of the handbook is available online http://dos.cornell.edu/faculty_bridge.cfm, and an iPhone app is in the works.

“The hope is that employees understand that every interaction that they have with students counts – simple things like recognizing a student’s name, a friendly hello to show that they care,” said Assistant Dean of Students Casey Car, who wrote the manual.

The handbook is a contribution to Cornell’s comprehensive mental health framework – seven objectives that give cues from the best practices in the field (see chart). They consist of infrastructure, services and actions that help students thrive, support those at risk and protect those in crisis, said Tim Marchell, Gannett Health Services director of mental health initiatives. This comprehensive, approach has assumed greater importance in response to student stress stemming from social and academic pressures, he said.

The handbook describes indicators of distress, appropriate ways to respond, Cornell’s support network, how staff can promote student well-being, and how students might be struggling with academic and other concerns, mental health issues and traumatic experiences. “I tried to make [the handbook] as concrete and usable as possible,” Carr said.

The manual, which draws much of its information from staff members, is replete with quotes that illustrate best practices. For example, Associate Dean of Students Travis Apger recounts in the handbook a seeing a student talking on her cell phone and crying. “I pulled my car over, introduced myself and asked if she was okay. We spoke for a few minutes. She said how much she appreciated that I would go out of my way to check on her even though I didn’t know her.” Gymnastics coaches Melanie Dilliplane and Paul Beckwith were among several staff members who helped Kaillen Hardy “get her life back on track after being sidelined by epilepsy.

The staff manual is the second in a series of three. The first, for faculty, came out about a year ago. A third, for families, is due out in the fall.

“I hope I don’t need to refer to the handbook too often, but I’m glad I have it,” Keane added.

ILR School holds employee recognition ceremony

BY DONNA GOSSETT

With the help of video conferencing technology to span the miles, employees located at the ILR New York City Extension office joined their colleagues on campus to celebrate the achievements of faculty and staff in a ceremony held on Monday, May 16.

Hosted by Dean Harry Katz, the event recognized more than two dozen members of the school.

Those recognized for their years of service to the university are:

Five years: Legna Cabrera, James DelRusso, Donald Kenyon, Laura Robinson, Joan Roberts; Back row: Ian Schachner, Kevin Harris, Traci Morea, Melissa Sender.

Ten years: Dianna Dean-Tucker, Sariena Mai Lam, Camille G. Lee, Renee Monroe, Michelle Schachner, Sarah Thompson;

Ten years: Dianna Dean-Tucker, Sariena Mai Lam, Camille G. Lee, Renee Monroe, Michael Radzik, Stacy Reynolds, Melissa Snyder, David Wustman, Yau-Yuan Young.

Fifteen years: Veronica Foster, Roger Parker, Sherrin Morina。

Twenty years: Coleen Clauson, Traci Lynn Moore, Jeffery Teeter;

Twenty-five years: Laura Lewis, Michele Secord;

Thirty years: David Lippincott, Joan Roberts.

Several ILR Resident Faculty Awards were also announced. The recipients are:

Robert N. Stern Mentoring Award: William Sonnenstuhl, associate professor, Organizational Behavior, and director of Graduate Studies;

McIntyre Award for Exemplary Teaching: Michael Gold, associate professor, Law Relations, Law and History;

General Miller Award for Exemplary Graduate Teaching: David Lipsky, professor, Labor Relations, Law and History, and director of the Scheinman Institute on Conflict Resolution;


First row: Sarah Thompson, David Lippincott, Susan O’Neil, Laura Robinson, Joan Roberts. Back row: Ian Schachner, Kevin Harris, Traci Morea, Melissa Sender.

New book helps staff members identify, form bonds, and promote student well-being

BY SUSAN KELLEY

When Tom Keane heard Cornell had a new handbook to help employees recognize and respond to student stress, he got one for every member of his office.

“Staff understand that lending a hand or a set of ears to someone in distress can only help the situation,” said Keane, director of financial aid and scholarship policies for Cornell. “The handbook reminds us that we not only have permission to help – even if the help is just to let your supervisor know you observed a student in distress – but that we also have a responsibility to help.”

Some 3,000 copies of the publication, “Recognizing and Responding to Students in Distress: A Staff Handbook,” can be distributed to all staff who have contact with students. A PDF of the handbook is available online http://dos.cornell.edu/faculty_bridge.cfm, and an iPhone app is in the works.

“The hope is that employees understand that every interaction that they have with students counts – simple things like recognizing a student’s name, a friendly hello to show that they care,” said Assistant Dean of Students Casey Car, who wrote the manual.

The handbook is a contribution to Cornell’s comprehensive mental health framework – seven objectives that give cues from the best practices in the field (see chart). They consist of infrastructure, services and actions that help students thrive, support those at risk and protect those in crisis, said Tim Marchell, Gannett Health Services director of mental health initiatives. This comprehensive, approach has assumed greater importance in response to student stress stemming from social and academic pressures, he said.

The handbook describes indicators of distress, appropriate ways to respond, Cornell’s support network, how staff can promote student well-being, and how students might be struggling with academic and other concerns, mental health issues and traumatic experiences. “I tried to make [the handbook] as concrete and usable as possible,” Carr said.

The manual, which draws much of its information from staff members, is replete with quotes that illustrate best practices. For example, Associate Dean of Students Travis Apger recounts in the handbook a seeing a student talking on her cell phone and crying. “I pulled my car over, introduced myself and asked if she was okay. We spoke for a few minutes. She said how much she appreciated that I would go out of my way to check on her even though I didn’t know her.” Gymnastics coaches Melanie Dilliplane and Paul Beckwith were among several staff members who helped Kaillen Hardy “get her life back on track after being sidelined by epilepsy.

The staff manual is the second in a series of three. The first, for faculty, came out about a year ago. A third, for families, is due out in the fall.

“I hope I don’t need to refer to the handbook too often, but I’m glad I have it,” Keane added.

ILR School holds employee recognition ceremony

BY DONNA GOSSETT

With the help of video conferencing technology to span the miles, employees located at the ILR New York City Extension office joined their colleagues on campus to celebrate the achievements of faculty and staff in a ceremony held on Monday, May 16.

Hosted by Dean Harry Katz, the event recognized more than two dozen members of the school.

Those recognized for their years of service to the university are:

Five years: Legna Cabrera, James DelRusso, Donald Kenyon, Laura Robinson, Joan Roberts; Back row: Ian Schachner, Kevin Harris, Traci Morea, Melissa Sender.

Ten years: Dianna Dean-Tucker, Sariena Mai Lam, Camille G. Lee, Renee Monroe, Michael Radzik, Stacy Reynolds, Melissa Snyder, David Wustman, Yau-Yuan Young.

Fifteen years: Veronica Foster, Roger Parker, Sherrin Morina.

Twenty years: Coleen Clauson, Traci Lynn Moore, Jeffery Teeter;

Twenty-five years: Laura Lewis, Michele Secord;

Thirty years: David Lippincott, Joan Roberts.

Several ILR Resident Faculty Awards were also announced. The recipients are:

Robert N. Stern Mentoring Award: William Sonnenstuhl, associate professor, Organizational Behavior, and director of Graduate Studies;

McIntyre Award for Exemplary Teaching: Michael Gold, associate professor, Law Relations, Law and History;

General Miller Award for Exemplary Graduate Teaching: David Lipsky, professor, Labor Relations, Law and History, and director of the Scheinman Institute on Conflict Resolution;