Employee-elected Trustee Beth McKinney Reports on recent meetings

BETH MCKINNEY, EMPLOYEE ELECTED TRUSTEE

Cornell’s Board of Trustees gathers in Ithaca each Memorial Day weekend for its end of year meeting and to participate in the graduation ceremonies. It continues to be my honor to represent you, the staff, with this board position.

As you can imagine, the last meeting of the year recapcs our accomplishments and challenges. While we still face challenges, my sense after attending several sessions was that our University is headed in a positive direction. Please allow me to share some highlights with you that I feel would be most relevant for staff.

President Skorton’s End of Year Message pertained to the staff. Skorton wrote, “We have made significant strides in minimizing the need for substantial layoffs, while still achieving the budget reductions that are required to be financially healthy, successful, and lean. We keep our focus on what needs to be done, and, by not repositioning faculty members, we can secure their future, and we need to reflect on our job actions at this stage than we once feared.”

Most notably, Skorton stated, “We must now turn our attention to aligning our highest priority work with the available resources, and do so more effectively. In short, we need to identify the specific tasks we will stop doing to focus on those activities that are most critical to our mission. Once we are able to return to our strategic plan, we can work to ensure that the university is a more efficient and effective organization.”

In the financial arena, things are going as planned. Suffice it to say, our finance experts have been working toward those goals to put us in the best financial situation possible. While we have not reached a balanced budget yet, the plan is working. It is predicted that we should have a balanced budget within the next three fiscal years.

Finally, there was a great deal of conversation about the fences on the bridges and the risk of cluster suicides. The experts who have been consulted have convinced us of the need to develop permanent barriers. In the end, I am confident there will be a beautiful solution.

As always, please contact me with your questions and concerns. I will do my best to facilitate communication among the appropriate areas.

President Skorton and Employee-elected Trustee Beth McKinney prepare for the procession to Schoellkopf Field and commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 30th. In addition to participating in the festivities, trustees were engaged with faculty and senior leadership in various committee and board meetings throughout the graduation weekend.

Inside

Tech Talk..........................................................2
Pawprint Picks..................................................2
Classified Ads.................................................4

continued on page 4

Employer Assembly announces new officers

The Employee Assembly (EA) elected its new officers for 2010-2011 on June 2. These officers and the 2010-11 EA need input on issues that are important to staff, be it in your workplace, professional development interests or campus communications.
Tech Talk Teresa Craighead

CIT's cost-saving tips can stretch your IT dollars

When start of the year at Cornell do IT dollars, but nevertheless are invested in how their 7 dollars per user. Tight budgets and burnout grant money every dollar needs to count.

CIT recently published a set of cost-saving tips at www.cit.cornell.edu/services/cost-saving. Many of the tips offer significant investment in folks after manage IT services for their departments, but a list of them can be leveraged by those in administrative and research and instructional roles.

Need IT training? Two of our training programs describe how to find and leverage free and low-cost training options. For general business related, and that can be easily eliminated.

Small is the key to success. Use the tips to find out about software licensed by Cornell that is available at reduced rates. If your software is not the best consider a compatible tool for reduced costs.

Backpack Program 2010 MAUREEN BRUHL

T he Backpack Program is starting to come together for the fall, 2010. I know, school hasn't even ended for this year! But in order to ready the first day of school in September, we've been working hard to get IT folks and area companies and currently have 12 schools who will benefit from the program.

Last year we were able to provide 237 filled backpacks to 12 area schools and hope to meet or exceed that number this fall. It's a pretty easy process that we ask folks to donate a backpack that an elementary school child could manage. The program is geared towards children in kindergarten through 6th grade.

With all of the sales that are coming together now and the school year, putting a new backpack together usually runs around $20.

Backpacks will be collected throughout the summer right up until the week before school starts. If you do want to donate a filled backpack, please put your name and email address on it so we can be sure to add you to the list of donors.

If you have any questions on the Backpack Program, please contact me at 255.7509 or email: mpb@cornell.edu.

Over 300 co-workers from A&S took a break from their busy schedules to congratulate colleagues on their years of service at the college's service award picnic held on Friday, June 4th in the Arts Quad.

44: Ronald Wolkstein, Barrie, 44 years; Henry Crays, A&S-Adm, Sharon DeJong, Chem, 35 years; Mary Lous Mattison, Psych, 30 years; Sharon Falletta, Econ; 25 years; Mary Ann, Others, DeDe Abbeiteman, Bies, Charlie Faye, Thetis, Vincent Kominet, Phys, Hope Madanlucks, FGCX, Sally O'Kane, A&S-Adm, Robby Perry, A&S-Com, Francesa, DeBERT, SACS, A&S-Adm, 20 years; Amy Muroch, Econ, 15 years; Douglas Angile, Bombing; Tom Wallis, A&S-Adm.

Arts and Sciences Hold an Awards Picnic

CORNELL LAW SCHOOL HOLDS ITS ANNUAL PICNIC

On June 9th Cornell Law School held its annual picnic hosted by Dean Stewart Schwab. The event recognized more than two dozen members of Law School community for three years of service:

30 years: Marc Louis; Gina Jackson, Linda Majeroni, Mary Newhart, Joan Payneck, 20 years: Brenda Cordinis, Donna Deigo, Jaci Givens, Paul Wither, 15 years: Lisa Cahnfield, Gayt Premner, Dane Sanrio, 10 years: Karen Bailey, Molly Bemrose, Bonnie in Coughlin, Pam Eaton, Sara Fran, Don Jones, Mary Jusie, Sarda Skenderija, Cinny Stair, 5 years: Jennifer Cook, Martha Fitzgerald, Juan Luke, Randi Nagy, Lisa Parrish, Liz Peck, Sylvia Russell

The Campus-to-Campus bus was on its last day of operation Friday, June 11, to show off its new “wrap”. The images for the new design were chosen to illustrate how the bus connects communities and programs between New York City and the campus in Ithaca. 

Additionally, the extra capacity on the C2C bus that has just been doubled, so whenever Cornell campus is available on the route, you should expect less competition to get online.

And, please update your address book! The Campus-to-Campus phone number is now 607-255-2729 (KNYS). The new phone number allows for multiple operators to assist you 24 hours a day, 7 days every week of the year.

Plan a trip to the city this summer and leave the driving to C2C. To learn more about the service visit: www.transportation.cornell.edu/campus2campus or call 607-255-2729.
Calling all shutterbugs
Pawprint announces their annual photo contest

Pawprint invites you to share your photo finesse in a competition of fun and spirit. At least ten prizes will be awarded, including Best of Show. Winning entries will be featured in a September edition of Pawprint.

Guidelines
Submit only one picture per category. Categories are: Adults, Animals, Children, Cornell (any location), Humorous, Landscape/Nature, Special Effects (digital enhancement), Structures/Buildings, and Unspecified.

Eligibility
Cornell staff, faculty, student, alumni, and retirees are eligible. Family members of Cornellians, Cornell's professional photographers, their support staff, student photography majors, contest judges, and the Pawprint Editorial Board are asked not to participate. Winning photos from previous contests are ineligible. (Some are featured below.)

Judging
This is a contest for fun. Judges, chosen from Cornell's photography and graphic design professionals, will look for composition, creativity, and uniqueness: the capture of a mood or special moment. There won't be a narrow focus on technical detail. The judging will be blind—that is, done practically since CRVIS's inception. He carries a basket of animal parts and pieces to delight the children. Those special presentations are a memorable event for both children and teachers alike. Furthermore, Erica and Howard share their enthusiasm for learning by taking children on educational field trips to places such as the Museum of the Earth. They are truly a special couple and very deserving of this award.

Past award winners include: Carl Smith in 2006, Gerry Thomas in 2007, Rose Sanford in 2008, and Gloria Howell in 2009. CRVIS is a service organization under the Cornell Retirees Association and is sponsored by the Division of Human Resources. CRVIS continues to recruit retirees who have an interest in making a difference in the lives of young children in grades K-5 and welcomes new volunteers at any time. Contact Kathie Shaff, CRVIS coordinator at 607.255.0388 for information. Volunteers for Caroline Elementary School are needed for Fall 2010.

Employee Assembly continued from page 1
Send ideas and questions to Tanya Grove at 607.255.0388. Send ideas and questions to Tanya Grove at 607.255.0388. AEA meetings are open to everyone, and CU administrators, from the president on down, are regular guests. For meeting dates and minutes, ask assembly@cornell.edu/EA/Meetings.

While staff may choose from a selection of 24 committee covering a range of work and student related subjects, employee volunteers are especially need to serve on the University Hearing and Review Boards, which decide the outcome of cases brought under the Campus Code of Conduct, and the Employee Assembly committees, which focus on issues of particular importance to staff, including: personnel policy, em- ployee education, and staff recognition. The assemblies try to fill most positions in August, and they recommend applying in the months of June or July. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year.

Questions and feedback about com- mittees can be sent to the Office of the Assem- blies assembly@cornell.edu.

Best of Show 2009
“Contentedly...”
Kim McAlear
Restaurant Service Technician, Plant Dining and Lodging

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