New early retirement incentives for employees in New York State or SUNY retirement programs

BY NANCY DOOLITTLE

New York state recently announced an Early Retirement Incentive (ERI) program for certain participants in the New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS) or the State University of New York Optional Retirement Plan (SUNY-ORP).

This program, approved by Cornell's Board of Trustees and President David J. Skorton, is available to Cornell's contract college and Cooperative Extension employees who meet certain requirements. ERI has two parts, Part A, whose window for retirement starts immediately and runs to Sept. 30, 2010, and Part B, with a window for retirement of Oct. 3–Dec. 31.

Part B is only available to faculty, staff and Cooperative Extension employees enrolled in Tiers 2, 3 and 4 of NYSERS, who are at least age 50 and have at least 10 years of service credit and are active, paid employees Feb. 1-Oct. 3. Those interested in retiring under Part A must submit an application by Nov. 30.

ERI participants who retire under Part A will receive in their ORP retirement account an amount from Cornell equal to 1/12th multiplied by years of service, multiplied by 15 percent, multiplied by annual salary as of March 1, 2010, not to exceed 45 percent of salary. So an employee making $57,000 with 20 years of service will receive (1/12 x 20) x 15% x $57,000 = $18,750 added to their retirement account.

NYERS members (all tiers) retiring under Part A will receive retirement benefits based on formulas that consider their final average salary, years of service and age.

While retirement benefits will be reduced for most NYERS members who retire before age 62, certain incentives under Part A help offset them. They will receive one month's additional retirement service credit for each year of NYERS credited service, to a maximum of 36 months.

Some retiring NYERS members will be eligible for both Part A and Part B and will need to choose between the two.

In all cases, employees must have at least 10 years of employment in a New York State Health Insurance Plan (NYSHIP) eligible position and be actively enrolled in NYSHIP at the time of retirement.

To help contract college and Cooperative Extension employees with ERI concerns, the Resource Center of Benefit Services at 607-255-3936 or e-mail benefits@cornell.edu.

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Employee Assembly recruiting committee members

The Employee Assembly (EA) and University Assembly (UA) are seeking staff members to serve on campus governance committees. Those who are interested may apply using a new online application available here: assembly.cornell.edu/staffing.

While staff may choose from a selection of 24 committees covering a range of work and student related subjects, employee volunteers are especially needed (a) 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, employee 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 committees can be sent to the Office of the Assemblies assembly@cornell.edu.

Benefits to be extended to employees’ children ages 19-26

BY NANCY DOOLITTLE

Endowed faculty and staff members will soon be able to cover their children ages 19 through 26.” Richard Clark, an economics professor and dean, said Mary George Opperman, vice president for human resources, "in light of the current economic challenges, Cornell families with young adults will especially benefit from this early coverage period."
On June 18, Cornell University Library recognized 39 employees for their years of service, ranging from 10 to 46 years, at a Service Awards Breakfast in the Willard Straight Hall Memorial Room. During the recognition ceremony, the library also awarded the annual Outstanding Performance Award to Bob Tufano from Central Library Operations, the Elinor G. French Award to Ellie Stiles from Collection Development, and the William Morris Award to Sarah Salino. The award is given to a team for exceptional leadership, teamwork, and/or time savings for the organization.

On July 23, the aGeleSS Jazz Band performs the legendary tunes of Duke Ellington and other jazz greats.

To view children ages 19-24 on health or dental plans, endowed faculty and staff will need to complete an enrollment form during the status change enrollment period. Participants who have already enrolled family plan coverage that includes children will not experience the new enrollment process. The individuals who are contactable may be those with a spouse/ same-sex partner. Individuals must contact Human Resources as to how changes to the contract college health plans will be implemented, but they will need to make coverage available for children age 26 and normal family premium rates as of Jan. 1, 2011.

In other library news:

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- In some ways the event was a continuation of a long-standing tradition—for the past several years the former Career and Professional Development Committee had sponsored an annual Career Development Conference. The Career Development Conference (CDC) had a charge to help institutionalize mentoring for all, and to encourage and support the career development of Cornell staff in both long- and near-term future.

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Will the Gulf oil spill affect backyard birds?  

As oil washes ashore along the Gulf Coast, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is asking birders to keep an eye on nesting birds—not just near water, but hundreds of miles inland. “Wildlife biologists are monitoring species such as pelicans and gulls in the immediate path of the oil,” said Laura Burkholder at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. “But we need bird watchers across the country to help us find out if birds that pass through or winter in the Gulf region carry contamination with them, possibly creating an ‘oil shadow’ of declines in bird reproduction hundreds of miles from the coast.”

To help, Burkholder said that anyone with an interest in birds can learn how to find and monitor nests as part of the Cornell Lab’s NestWatch project (www.nestwatch.org). It involves visiting a nest for a few minutes, twice per week, and recording information such as how many eggs it contains, how many chicks hatch, and how many leave the nest.

“Many birds that nest in backyards all across North America, such as Red-winged Blackbirds and Tree Swallows, spend part of the year along the Gulf of Mexico, where they could be affected by the oil spill,” Burkholder said. “Toxins often have profound effects on reproduction, and it’s possible that toxins encountered in one environment can affect the birds in another environment, after they arrive on their breeding grounds.”

When participants across large regions contribute information, Burkholder said, scientists can assess changes in nesting success in relation to environmental factors such as habitat loss, climate change, and pollution. Citizen-science participants have helped the Cornell Lab monitor the success rates of nesting birds for 45 years. Now, Burkholder said, it’s especially critical to capture data on reproduction, and it’s possible that toxins encountered in one environment can affect the birds in another environment, after they arrive on their breeding grounds.

To help the effort, visit www.nestwatch.org. In addition to accepting observations from the general public, NestWatch is available as a data repository for wildlife agencies and scientific organizations to support their research on the impacts of the oil spill.

Calling all shutterbugs  

Pawprint announces its 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. Our top prize this is a trip on the Campus to Campus bus!

Guidelines

Submit only one picture per category. Categories are: Adults, Animals, Children (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 not eligible to participate. Winning photos from previous year’s 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 ongoing basis or promoting employment outside Cornell cannot be accepted.

To run your ad more than once, you must re-register the ad.

• Pawprint is not responsible for errors or unprinted ads, and reserves the right to edit or reject any submission.

Submit classified ads via:

Classified Deadlines:

For sale

4000 bales of hay, $52 per 50 lb. bale. KIM


Gorgeous Cayuga lakefront property, east shore, 1+ acre lot w/unobstructed view & 71 foot lakefront parcel. Gated lake access via Deer Trail Rd. $190,000. 254.2264 or LH32.

2002 doublewide mobile home. 3 BR 2 BA approximately 1200 sq. ft., excellent condition in great school district. Asking $35,000. 607.592.2402.


Pool table, 8ft, non-slate. Will send pictures. $100. 607.423.9635.


Firestone Precision Sport Tires, excellent conditions, 2 tires on them. 215/60R16, 95H M+S. Set of 4 tires $350. JPDG29.

First-aid kits, home or auto. $10. Help support Grotton Boy Scout Troop 77 with their 2011 high-adventure trip. We deliver! More info at DSB48.

Shetie puppies, AKC, vet checked, shots/dewclaws removed. Available for reservation now. 255.9440 or dmcl@comcast.net.

1948 Wellcrt Scarab 21’. Myco trailer, 55,269 exhaust, 55 prop. Well maintained, stored inside. $8,000 or trade CMP27.

2002 Toyota Corolla Wagon, manual 5-speed, 149K, runs well, 29 mpg, great body $800. Cole 255.8406 or CG23.

House for sale: 10 James Street, Dryden $185,000. Info, pics, and floor layout at degiorgio@connext.com. Call Shaley DeGiorgio for questions 607.330.4762.


RENTAL

2 BR house, sleeps 6 for rent on Seneca Lake. Located in Romulus. $1250/week, syracusegeir6@yahoo.com.

Spacious, 1 BR apt. in private home. 5 miles from campus in Els Hills. NYS. Pets OK. $660. 539.6440. SAD33.

3 BR ranch house, Northeast, near schools, CU bus route, walk to CU. Large lot. $1500 plus. AAM6.

 classified Deadlines:

Classified Deadlines:

For free to members of the Cornell community, ads are posted as space permits. Remember to:

• Include name, campus phone, and category.
• Limit ad to 20 words or less.
• Submit only one ad per person.
• Ad must include product or commercial services on an ongoing basis or promoting employment outside Cornell cannot be accepted.

• To run your ad more than once, you must re-register the ad.

• Pawprint is not responsible for errors or unprinted ads, and reserves the right to edit or reject any submission.

Submit classified ads via:

PP Classified: pawprint@cornell.edu.

Classified Deadlines:

Best of Show 2009

Kim Mclear

Restaurant Service Technician, Plant Breeding and Genetics

[Image]