Preview of Sesquicentennial Celebration Sparks Retirees Interest at CRA Spring Luncheon

On Thursday, April 9, the Cornell Retirees enjoyed a fun program at the Ramada Inn in Ithaca outlining many of the numerous events planned for the Cornell University Charter Day Weekend Celebration.

Professor Joseph Burns, from the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, the current Dean of the Faculty and a member of the Sesquicentennial Planning Committee shared with us some highlights of the events to take place the weekend of April 24-27, 2015 in Ithaca. However, this is almost a yearlong celebration taking place around the world, wherever Cornellians want to celebrate! They are calling it “Cornell 150: A Festival of Ideas and Imagination.”

Of course by the time this newsletter is printed these events will have already taken place. The following is what we learned would be happening!

On Friday evening from 6-7 p.m., there will be an event called “Cornell and the Joy of Discovery: Any Person, Any Planet” with Bill Nye ’77 and Steve Squyres ’78, PhD ’81. This particular program was sold out on April 9 and they were planning livestreaming at two other venues.

There are three special programs planned for Saturday. One event from 5-6:30 p.m. in Barton Hall is called “Illuminating Images of Science” and will be led by five Cornell Faculty as panelists. This will involve some very interesting and large images seen in a unique fashion in a special display arrangement in Barton.

On Sunday afternoon at 4:30-6:00 p.m., there is an event called “Presidents Panel: The Future of Higher Education.” Three former Cornell presidents and current President David Skorton, plus the president of Harvard, will participate in this event.

Special exhibits in the Libraries, the Johnson Museum, and different departments around campus are also available for viewing and will be for a few weeks after Charter Day Weekend.

We hope you will have the opportunity to participate in this very special celebration. Dr. Burns really made everything sound very inviting and exciting! Richard Dick won the door prize, a sesquicentennial mug.

We look forward to seeing you all at CRA’s Annual Meeting and Luncheon on June 4, 2015. Please see reservation information on the last page of this newsletter and the Election Ballot on page 3.

~ Jeanette Miller
Retiree Spotlight: Pat Baker
Long Time Athletic Department Staff

Pat Baker joined the Women’s Physical Education staff as an Administrative Assistant in the spring of 1964. Prior to coming to Cornell she had worked for five years at NYSEG. Helen Newman Hall had recently opened in the previous fall, when the Women’s P.E. program moved from Balch to Helen Newman. Fifteen years later in 1979 this program combined with the Men’s P.E. program and moved to Teagle Hall. Of course Pat went along with this move and eventually became the Administrative Assistant for the Associate Athletic Director for Women’s Sports.

In this capacity, Pat worked closely with many of the coaches for both women’s and men’s sports. Thus her nickname “PB” evolved and to this day she is known to these coaches as “PB.” Pat retired in 1999 after 35 years of service to Cornell…however, she was not done yet!

In April of 2000, Pat began her second career at Cornell as the Administrative Assistant in the Pro Shop of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Course at Cornell University! Pat continues this part-time work to this day.

To escape the cold Ithaca winters, Pat now spends two months a year at her property in Florida. She also has another part-time job working with the spring plantings and sales at Larchwood Farms Greenhouse on Route 79 in Ithaca.

Pat is very involved with St. John’s Episcopal Church in Speedsville, where she serves on the Vestry, and holds an office in the Episcopalian women’s group. She also volunteers at the Food Pantry in Brooktondale.

Family is important to Pat. She is the mother of three children—one son and two daughters—and she has two grandchildren. One of her daughters seems to be carrying on the family tradition by working in the Physical Education Office at Cornell. Pat also keeps her eye on her mother, who lives alone in her own home and is still active at the age of 94!

In her “spare” time, Pat enjoys canning produce from her garden and knitting. Recently she has developed an interest in quilting, mostly in anticipation of the birth of her first great-grandchild later this year.

What a busy and active lady after 15 years “more or less” of “retirement!”

~ Jeanette Miller

Retiree Reflections... 50 years ago... Where Were You?

Jeanette Miller Remembers Cornell’s 100th Anniversary

While thinking about Cornell’s Sesquicentennial Celebration, I recalled being involved with the Cornell Centennial Celebration in 1964-65. At the time, I certainly was not planning to be involved with another Cornell University milestone in my lifetime!

It was in the fall...October 9, 1964 and I was working in the Martha Van Rensselaer Cafeteria. One of our specialty items was pumpkin chiffon pie. There was to be a Centennial Dinner that evening in Barton Hall following the Convocation held earlier that day.

Our cafeteria was asked to provide the dessert for this dinner—our very own pumpkin chiffon pie! This was no small order as hundreds of diners were expected. I do not remember exactly how many pies we made, but it took a lot of planning and effort on the part of the baking staff!

Dozens of pies were placed on baking trays and then the trays were placed in baking racks on wheels to transport the pies to Barton Hall by truck! The pies were whole, to be sliced for serving at Barton.

As a manager, I was responsible for all the pies and I wanted to be sure that these pies arrived in good shape, so I rode in the back of the truck with other staff, holding and securing the racks in place until we unloaded at Barton! Thankfully no mishaps occurred, and as I remember, the pies were enjoyed by the Centennial Dinner guests that night.

Do you remember where you were 50 years ago, during Cornell’s 100th anniversary? Do you have a Centennial Celebration memory you would like to share with us? Please see details below.

~ Jeanette Miller

Note to Retirees: Please feel free to share your story with other retirees. For possible inclusion in an upcoming newsletter, send your story via email to: Jeanette Miller, jlm12@cornell.edu, or USPS mail to: 311 Strawberry Hill Circle #3, Ithaca NY 14850.
Cornell Wellness Program - Classes for Healthy Aging

The Cornell Wellness Program offers opportunities for physical activity that are appropriate for every size, shape, age, and ability. Classes for Healthy Aging are great for individuals who have gone through joint replacement, suffer from arthritis, experience lingering joint pain from injury, want to improve their balance and more.

Classes embody our vision of inclusion, offer participants individualized attention to be successful, and promote an environment of camaraderie and personal success. Any current Wellness member may participate.

Please visit the Wellness web page at https://recreation.athletics.cornell.edu/wellness for details. In addition to a Wellness membership, online registration is requested for all of the classes listed on the website. Classes for Healthy Aging have start and end dates; but you can join at any time. Please contact Jennifer Bennett, the Healthy Aging Program coordinator, at jab853@cornell.edu or 255-3886 for information and/or registration.

Cornell Family Helper List

The Cornell Family Helper list is a wonderful website to check out. It's a rich resource designed especially for Cornell folks seeking assistance of various kinds. The website is interspersed with offerings such as pet care/sitting, companionship, errand-runners, housecleaning, transportation, and tutoring, to name a few.

There is a new feature that is very exciting and helpful. If you are interested in offering your services to help others, you can register, as well! Simply fill out the application and send it electronically to the address on the form, or by snail mail to Eileen Whang, 395 Pine Tree Road, Suite 130, Ithaca, NY 14850.

If you would like to offer your services (paid or unpaid) for things such as transportation, elder companionship, errand running, babysitting, and more, please contact Eileen Whang at 255-1917.

The service establishes a link for Cornell faculty, staff, retirees, and students to access various life quality services and can only be used by current Cornell faculty, staff, retirees, and students with a valid Cornell netid. A profile of all potential helpers is available on the website, which include helpers’ previous experience, references, and availability.

The Cornell Family Helper List can be viewed, by logging in with your Cornell netid and password at: https://hr.cornell.edu/life/support/helper/helper_list.cfm.

Ballot for the Election of 2015-2016 CRA Officers

I approve this slate: YES NO
Signed: ___________________
For write-in candidates:
I vote for: ___________________
for office: ___________________
Send email vote to:
cornellretirees@cornell.edu
Mail paper ballot to: CRA Vote,
150 Day Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853

Jeanette Miller
Dominic Versage
June Niblock
Helen Swank

Suggestions for program topics, luncheon speakers, newsletter articles or spotlights, seminars & more:

If you spend winters in another city/state, include your address so we can invite you to events in your area.

If you would like to help coordinate a Retiree Event in your city/state, please let us know: YES NO
Are you interested in becoming a CRA Board member? YES NO
Name: ___________________________ Phone: ______________ Email: ___________________________
2015 CRA Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon
Thursday, June 4, 2015, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Ramada Inn, 2310 N. Triphammer Road, Ithaca (in front of Mall)
Doors open 11:30 a.m., lunch served at noon, speaker at 1:00 p.m.
Business Meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Sunshine and warmer temperatures are finally here in Ithaca. We look forward to spring and summer, which means it’s time once again for another retiree luncheon. Please join us for the Cornell Retirees Association’s Annual Business Meeting on June 4. David St. George, master instructor, chief pilot, and operations manager of the East Hill Flying Club will share history of the 60-year-old club and his experience as a pilot and flight instructor. **Deadline to RSVP is May 27.** Our luncheon menu includes a choice of:

- Cold Plate: Scoop of Chicken Salad, Pasta Salad, Cottage Cheese, Tomato Wedges, Olives, and Fruit
- Spinach Salad with Mushrooms and Tomato Wedges (Vegetarian and Gluten-Free Option)

Rolls/Gluten-Free Rolls and Chocolate Cake or Fresh Fruit Cup (Gluten-Free Option). Coffee/Tea/Ice Tea.

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**CRA 2015 Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon**

**Thursday, June 4, 2015, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. — Ramada Inn, Ithaca**

Doors open at 11:30 a.m., lunch served at noon, speaker at 1:00 p.m.

Name: __________________________________________ Circle: Chicken Salad Plate or Spinach Salad

Guest: __________________________________________ Circle: Chicken Salad Plate or Spinach Salad

If special diet (ie. vegan/no salt, etc), please list and include a phone number: ________________________

Cost is $10 per person, payable by check to Cornell University. **Reservation and payment deadline is May 27.** PLEASE NOTE: All lunches must be pre-paid. There are no refunds. Seating is limited. Reservations will be cut off when seating capacity is met, which may be before the deadline. Please mail your reservations early! No RSVPs will be taken after May 27. Free parking. In case of inclement weather, please call 607-255-3976 or check your e-mail for postponement information.

**Total reservations __ @ $10.00 each = $ ____ Please make check payable to "Cornell University."**

Mail form and check to: Cornell Retirees Association, P.O. Box 431, Ithaca, NY 14851

**Luncheon reservation deadline is May 27.** We hope to see you there!

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