Hi there!

The High Rise staff and I would like to welcome you to Cornell and the High Rise community. We are so happy that you are here! This letter is designed to help you learn more about the High Rise community, the staff, move-in day, leadership opportunities within the community, and more.

We are 2 buildings but 1 community!

If you have any questions or need clarification feel free to contact me at:

highrises@cornell.edu

Also, check out our Facebook Page Cornell High Rises- Jameson and High Rise 5

Can’t wait to meet you!

Your RHD,

Didi
About the High Rises

There is a lot you need to know about the High Rise community before you move in. Look at the list of things to bring and things not to bring.

What are “The High Rises”

The High Rise community includes both Jameson Hall and High Rise 5 Hall. These buildings mirror each other and have a community center, Robert Purcell Community Center (RPCC), located in between. Staff who live in High Rise 5 and Jameson work in both buildings and are here to serve and help you. These two buildings make up what we call the High Rise community.

What’s here?

Each building has two elevators, vending machines, ground floor bathroom, and a trash room. Stairs are located on the exterior perimeter of the building and are not accessible from the ground floor.

Our community is set up in suite style, with four rooms sharing one bathroom. There are no common areas within a suite, but there is a large lounge on every floor.

In addition, there is a community kitchen on every floor. Amenities within the kitchen include: sink, microwave, stove, oven and community refrigerator.

Individual rooms come with window shades, wireless network, a bed, desk, study chair, study lamp, chest of drawers, wastebasket, and recycling receptacle. All rooms are carpeted, and you may bring additional lighting (NO SPIDER LAMPS).

What to bring

There is a computer lab in RPCC, but you might want to bring a computer. You may bring additional lighting (NO SPIDER LAMPS), surge protectors with a UL approved label, a micro-fridge (you can rent one), a bike, and more. You can find a more extensive list on the Housing website.

What NOT to bring*

- Except for fish (10 gallon tank maximum), pets are not permitted in the halls. If you are interested in keeping certain small pets, check out the Ecology House.
- Halogen lights over 150 watts, “spider lamps,” and extension cords are not allowed
- Candles
- Incense burners
- Streamers
- Cinderblocks
- Hot plates
- Multiplug adaptors & extension cords
- Toasters and toaster ovens
  You can find a complete list in the “Moving In” section of housing.cornell.edu.
*Students may be documented and charged by Housing or the Fire Marshall if prohibited items are found in a room.
How to Get Involved

One of the best ways to know what is going on and make friends is to get involved! One of the easiest ways you can get involved is by joining the High Rise Hall Council. This is a group of High Rise students from every floor in the community.

They address and solve issues within the community, discuss building safety and facilities issues, maintain a budget, and plan programs and events year-round for the High Rise community. Through the Hall Council, you will also have the opportunity to become involved in the Residential Student Congress (RSC). Everyone is welcome to be part of Hall Council.

Want to know more? Ask your RA or me (your RHD), and we will be happy to give you more information. Look for signs about the first Hall Council meeting during the beginning of the year.

RESIDENTIAL STUDENT CONGRESS (RSC)

Join the Residential Student Congress (RSC)!

RSC is the student leadership body representing all residential students at Cornell. The group meets weekly on Tuesdays at 5:30pm to discuss pertinent issues regarding our residential communities, decide on funding, and host a variety of events including the Big Red Chill. The RSC is a great way to have your voice heard, plan some fun events, or simply get some more leadership experience.

Each residence hall will elect representatives to the RSC. These representatives are the voice for all residents in the building. If you would like more information about RSC or our available positions, please contact your RHD or RA.

National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH)

The National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) is a national organization founded as a way to recognize the top 1% of student leaders living on college campuses across the country. Students who have made significant contributions to the residential community are nominated each year to be part of NRHH. One way to be part of NRHH is to get involved in Hall Council and RCS!

The 2013-2014 High Rise T-Shirt. Look for this year’s T-Shirt on Move-in Day!
Staff to help You… RHD and ARHD

Your Residence Hall Director (RHD)

The Residence Hall Director is a full time, live-in professional staff person, and is not a student. The RHD is responsible for the long range planning as well as day-to-day operations of the building and is the High Rise representative to its parent organizations, Residential Programs, Dean of Students, and Cornell University.

The RHD has a Master’s degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education and is available for counseling, advising, information on the High Rises, and other issues relating to college life.

Rebecca Adidi Etim (aka Didi)… Your RHD

My name is Rebecca Adidi Etim, but you can call me Didi. I am your RHD (Residence Hall Director). This is my fifth year working at Cornell and I am very excited to be part of the High Rise community.

I am originally from Santa Barbara, California, but I lived in Michigan for some years. Before coming to Cornell I was at Grand Valley State University where I earned my B.A in Photography and studied Arabic. I then went to Northern Illinois University where I earned my Master’s in Counseling, Adult and Higher Education and studied American Sign Language.

Though I live in the community I am not a student. I am a full time employee at Cornell. In addition to my responsibilities above (in Your Residence Hall Director) I oversee all large-scale problems, concerns, and issues within the community as well as supervise all 10 of the RAs in the High Rise community.

My office is located on the ground floor of Jameson. Feel free to stop by to ask questions, chat, hang out, or pet my dog (yes I have a dog, named Basil. You might see him from time to time. He is very friendly and loves to meet new people). I am always open to meeting new people. Hope to see you soon!

*Didi

The Assistant Residence Hall Director (ARHD)

Vinnie Pierino…Your ARHD

The High Rise Community also has an Assistant Residence Hall Director; he is a full-time graduate student at Cornell who works part-time in our community. The ARHD’s job is to assist the community by developing meaningful events for the community.

Hi there, my name is Vinnie Pierino. I am originally from sunny South Florida, around the West Palm Beach area. I lived there all my life until I moved to pursue my undergraduate degree at the University of Florida (Go Gators!). There my major was Health Science and received a minor in Business Administration. I enjoyed my incredible time there, but I can’t wait for all the excitement that is Cornell.

While at Cornell I will be pursuing my Masters in Health Administration in the College of Human Ecology. I am extremely excited for my time at Cornell and am very excited to be the Assistant Residence Hall Director (ARHD) for the High Rise communities. I have worked with housing my entire undergraduate career, and I will look forward to working there again. If you see me around feel free to say hi, or if you ever need me feel free to contact me. Can not wait to meet everyone and get to know you all.

Vinnie
Staff to help you…Resident Advisor (RA)

Resident Advisor (RA)

Resident Advisors (RAs) are live-in student staff members who have been trained in counseling, mediation, educational programming, and crisis management. They are all full-time undergraduate Cornell students, so you might see them some of your classes or around campus!

There are 10 RAs in the High Rise community, one for each floor. There are 5 RA in High Rise 5 and 5 RAs in Jameson and they all serve and work in both buildings.

They are here to build community on the floor, help solve any problems you may face, and make High Rise 5 and Jameson a wonderful place to live. You may see them host a program, solve a roommate conflict, or walk the building during their nightly rounds.

They are amazing resources to go to if you want to plan a program or event, or have questions about the High Rise community, Cornell, Ithaca and anything in between.

High Rise 5 RAs

Ground Floor & 1st Floor HR5 RA: David

Hello High-Risers and Jamesonites! I'm David Zakalik, from Buffalo, NY. I'm a Senior Animal Science major in CALS, minoring in Education. I'm a pianist with the Cornell University Klezmer Ensemble, and I enjoy writing, playing music, and biking or running around Cornell's beautiful campus. Please come by to visit and chat anytime!

2nd Floor HR5 RA: Ayman

Hey everyone - my name is Ayman (it's like the Cayman Islands without the c). I'm a junior in the College of Human Ecology, majoring in Design and Environmental Analysis with a focus in Interior Design. I'm Lebanese, but I was born and raised in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia and spent some years in Bahrain. It's been wonderful at Cornell; I've gotten the chance to get involved in campus groups like the Ordinary People Theater Troupe and the Arab Student Association, as well as theater productions like the Charlie Chaplin inspired show In the Middle of the Night. I'm always down to talk about anything, but music, video games, and art & design are some of my favorite topics. Super excited to be an RA in the High Rises, and looking forward to meeting you.
Staff to help you…

High Rise 5 RAs

3rd Floor HR5 RA: Danielle

Hey Y'all!! I am Danielle, a Senior in Electrical and Computer Engineering. This is my 3rd year being an RA in this community so I am well versed in everything going on in these parts. Beyond the High Rises, I am the President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., am on Cornell University Sustainable Design, am a Cornell Tradition Fellow, and enjoy playing volleyball and rock climbing. I love this job because it is a way that I can remain constantly connected with people who I would traditionally not meet. Welcome to College! <3

4th Floor HR5 RA: Teddy

Hi everyone! My name is Teddy, and I am a sophomore studying Computer Science and Mechanical Engineering. I’m from the heart of Silicon Valley in northern California, and love the outdoors! I teach rock climbing here at Cornell, run a high ropes course over the summer up in the Sierra Mountains, and love going on the occasional scuba diving trip. I also love cooking, and have been known to randomly bake cupcakes and cookies throughout the year. I love meeting new people, so feel free to knock on my door and come talk to me! This should be an exciting year and I can’t wait to meet all of you!!!

5th floor & 6th floor (Sky Lounge)
HR5 RA: Claire

Hi my name is Claire. I’m a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences, majoring in Government and Economics and minoring in Policy Analysis and Management and Business. I was born and raised in China, and then went to Sydney, Australia and Dallas, TX for part of middle school and high school. On campus, besides being an RA, I am involved in Cornell Student Union Board, Student Staff Funding Board, and The Visible Hand, which is Cornell’s student-run economics journal under Cornell Economics Society. I enjoy working out and talking to people. So feel free to come talk to me about anything! I look forward to meeting you!
Staff to help you…

Jameson (High Rise 1) RAs

Ground Floor & 1st Floor HR1 RA: Larissa

My name is Larissa and I am a junior majoring in Mechanical Engineering. I’m from a small town in central New Jersey. On campus, I am President of The Thread Magazine and a brother of Theta Tau. I love reading, writing, watching fashion shows, and listening to music.

2nd Floor HR1 RA: Michael

I grew up in Marlboro, NJ and attended the Science and Engineering Learning Center in Manalapan High School. I played soccer and basketball for the high school. I am a certified Emergency Medical Technician and am currently a member of the first aid squad in my home town. Acceptance to Cornell University was a dream come true. Currently, I am a majoring in Biological Engineering, minoring in Bio-medical Engineering and am on the Pre-Med track. I hope to attend medical school and eventually become an orthopedic surgeon. My goal for my four years at Cornell is to meet as many people as I can and take advantage of all that Cornell has to offer.
Hi guys! I’m Haadia and I am from Pakistan - I had never visited the US before coming to Cornell so I know what it’s like to be in a new environment away from home! I’m a rising sophomore majoring in Economics and Mathematics. On campus I am involved with the International Students Admissions Ambassadors, the Cornell Social Venture Club, the African, Latino, Asian, Native American Finance Commission and the Pakistani Students Association. Outside academic and extra-curricular activities, I enjoy travelling, trying new outdoor activities, exploring pretty spots around Ithaca (I could take you to some of my favorite ones!) and trying every new Ben & Jerry’s ice-cream flavor! Feel free to stop by my room for any kind of help or just to chill around!

Hi everyone! My name is Joy and I’m going to be your Resident Advisor this year. I’m a second year Sloan student in Health Administration and recently graduated with my degree in Policy Analysis and Management. I’m from sunny Irvine, California and I like to play the ukulele and the guitar and go squirrel watching. During my four years at Cornell I’ve tried it all, from club sports and Greek life to student government and prank clubs. You can ask me anything, from where the best food is to how you can get involved on campus. I look forward to meeting you all! Go Big Red!

My name is Sam, and there are many things about me. There are also many things that are not about me, but I would prefer to stick to the things that are about me, considering this brief segment here is supposed to be a concise, yet informative segment about myself. For example, I am a nineteen-year-old male from outside of Albany, NY. Not only am I these things, however, I am also a second-year college student in the Cornell school of Human Ecology, majoring in Human Biology, Health & Society. Next, I will tell you even more things about myself. I will include that I am a member of the Shake Ultimate team, an hourly associate at North Star Dining (ΝΣΔ) in Appel Commons, and a member of the ΚΣ fraternity here on campus. You might be saying to yourself, “Is there anything more he could tell me about himself? Is he finished describing this entire life he proclaims as his?” In such a case, I shall declare, “There are more things, yet!” For instance, things involving the outdoors are my friends. I very much enjoy most wilderness activities, and I would like to think they might enjoy me in return. Music is also a solid part of my life, as I enjoy strummin' on the ol’ piano every once in a short while. Although these might not be all of the things that I am, I will conclude my story here, in hopes that we may meet and forge some sort of candid relationship in person. In the name of all things righteous: “Will it blend? That is the question.”
Why faculty?

The High Rise community is fortunate to have five very involved faculty members in our community. These full-time CU faculty members have a strong interest in and devotion to the students who live in the halls. They attend, sponsor, and plan programs within the High Rise community with the intent to know you better and make your transition to Cornell a successful one.

You may see our Faculty Fellows at a High Rise program or hanging around the community, so feel free to introduce yourself!

**Faculty Fellow Brisa**

Brisa is a linguist and teaches the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world in the Department of Romance Studies. She specializes in foreign language instruction, pragmatic competence in foreign language education, use of advanced technology in foreign language acquisition, curriculum development, and assessment. She enjoys speaking with students about language learning strategies, service-learning opportunities, and the Spanish-speaking world.

Look for her when you move in, and don't be shy about introducing yourselves.

**Faculty Fellow Iago**

Iago holds PhD in History and is a faculty in the Department of Near Eastern Studies. He teaches courses on Iranian History, Modern Iranian State and Society and is the Coordinator of the Persian Language program. His research interests include the evolution of modern nation-states in the Middle East, Islam in the Caucasus, and the Russo-Caucasian militant networks in Russia and abroad. He enjoys talking to students about the U.S. policies in Iran and former Soviet countries, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the new world order, Iranian nuclear program and the future of the U.S. in the Middle East. Iago speaks Persian, Megrelian, Georgian, Russian and English.

**Faculty Fellow Flavien**

Flavien is a linguist and teaches French culture and language within the Department of Romance Studies. Flavien has always been involved in student learning outside the class room, but has only recently become a Faculty Fellow. This year will mark Flavien’s second year as a Faculty Fellow in the High Rise community. His well-known and highly attended program Coffee Hours is one of students’ favorite programs in the High Rise community. Here students have the opportunity to hang out and mingle with a wide range of faculty who teach freshman and upper-class courses at Cornell.

Flavien is always willing to talk with students about anything (in English and/or French), so do not be shy and say “hi.”
Staff to help You…Faculty

**Anthony** was born in New Zealand, grew up in Canada and got his BS at Brigham Young University in Provo Utah in Environmental Science. After graduate work at the University of California Riverside and a post doc at the University of Tennessee, he joined the Department of Microbiology and Graduate Program in Environmental Toxicology at Cornell in 1999. Research-wise, he is interested in a number of things including the ability of microorganisms to degrade pharmaceuticals, the ability of bacteria to form biofilms, and, with former Faculty-in-Residence Dr. Michel Louge, the role microbes play in stabilizing sand dunes. He is passionate about undergraduate research and loves to talk with students about the great research opportunities available at Cornell. In his spare time Anthony loves to kiteboard and participate in triathlons.

Anthony was a Faculty-in-Residence in Balch Hall for four years and at the Townhouses for two years prior to joining the High Rises as a Faculty Fellow. He enjoys engaging with students while doing such activities as meeting for dinner, discussing current events and the latest scientific breakthroughs, visiting museums, attending the Cornell Concert Series, holding cheese tastings, and making ice cream with liquid nitrogen. He also really loves to hold internationally themed dinners where he can share his love for travel and culture.

**Frances** has been a Cornell faculty member since 1994, and teaches Chinese Mandarin in the Department of Asian Studies. She has a passion for teaching and mentoring students and is the recipient of many awards, including the Clark Distinguished Teaching Award and the Kendall Carpenter Memorial Advising Award.

Frances was Faculty-in-Residence in Court-Kay-Bauer from 2007 until 2013, prior to which she was a Faculty Fellow since 1996. Very active in student life across campus, Frances is also the faculty advisor for over ten student organizations, in addition to being the advisor of the Phi Delta Psi fraternity and the Kappa Delta Phi sorority.

She is very excited about joining the High Rises community as Faculty Fellow starting this year.

Frances’ husband **Phiroze** has degrees in music and engineering and is a music professor at Ithaca College. They both enjoy interacting with students.
Programs to look for

Part of the role of your RA is to put on and host programs/events for your floor, the building, and/or the community. Here are some you might see this year. **Look for posters, notes from your RA, and emails from me about these programs throughout the year.**

- High Rise T-Shirts
- White Water Rafting
- NYC, and Corning Museum of Glass Trips
- Lunar New Year
- Skiing and Snowboarding
- Apple Picking
- Hot Coco and Coffee Hour
- Condom Roses
- Hall Council programs
- Pie Eating contest
- Midnight Screams
- End of the Year BBQ

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**Your RHD’s contact information**

Rebecca Adidi Etim  
Residence Hall Director  
High Rise 5 & Jameson  
Residential Programs  
Cornell University  
Office of the Dean of Students  
t. 607-255-8645  
f. 607-255-2192  
re63@cornell.edu