Welcome to the Low Rises, Class of 2018!

Welcome to your new home-away-from-home at Cornell—The Low Rises! The Residential Programs staff is busy preparing for your arrival in August and has lots of exciting events planned to help you make the most of your experience at Cornell. Our hope is that this newsletter helps you learn more about the Low Rise community, Low Rise faculty and staff, and the many leadership opportunities that exist within the community. If you have any questions after reading this newsletter, feel free to email us at lowrises@cornell.edu.

The Low Rise Team
Low Rises 6 & 7—By The Numbers

- The Low Rise community is composed of 2 nearly identical buildings—Low Rise 6 and Low Rise 7. You will have access to both buildings.
- There are 4 units in each building, 6 suites in each unit, and 7 students in each suite. Suites are comprised of single, double and triple rooms.
- There are 8 Resident Advisors, 1 Residence Hall Director, 1 Faculty-in-Residence and 2 Faculty Fellows that work with the Low Rise community.
- We have 2 ping pong tables, 2 laundry rooms, 2 main lounges and 1 piano.

The Perks of Living in the Low Rises!

- We provide tons of opportunities for you to engage with others in our community. Get ready for the Low Rise House Cup, Life Stories, Study Break, and Faculty Brunch!
- Suite-style housing that helps you meet people and find your place at CU quickly!
- Eat, study and get your mail next door at Robert Purcell Community Center (RPCC).
- Play basketball, tennis, lacrosse or soccer in the fields outside of Low Rise 7.
- Roll out of bed and have brunch with Low Rise faculty every Sunday at RPCC.
- Catch the bus to Central Campus in front of Low Rise 7 every ten minutes!
- Go for a walk or ride your bike on the Gorge Trails behind Low Rise 7.
- Check out a concert next door at Just About Music (JAM)!
COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES & TRADITIONS

LOW RISE COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE MEETINGS

Learn all of the ins and outs of what it means to be a “Low Riser” in three community experience meetings in August. Your RHD and Faculty Team will be at your first meeting to introduce themselves and their roles in the community. Get important information about the Book Project, Tapestry, and other important Orientation and Welcome Week events at these meetings.

LIFE STORIES

Each Sunday, Low Rise residents share their “Life Stories.” Life Stories encourages residents to step out of their comfort zones and see the world through different points of view. RAs will explain this favorite event of Low Rise alumni and RAs in more detail at the first Community Experience meeting. Life Stories is a key part of our shared commitment to fostering openness and embracing the diversity that exists within our community. What’s your Life Story? We can’t wait to find out!

BRUNCH WITH BELINA AND NAVA

Join John Belina, Nava, and Cheryl for brunch every Sunday for brunch at RPCC. Stop by to say “hello” or stay a while to enjoy breakfast, lunch, and dessert from 9:30—noon each week. Do not miss this weekly opportunity to share a meal with Low Rise faculty, staff, and alumni!

STUDY BREAK

Cornell can be a stressful environment, especially when you are a first-year student. We de-stress and reconnect every Thursday at 9:30 pm. Unwind with us each week and enjoy a late-night snack or activity with your RA and fellow Low Risers.

OTHER TRADITIONAL EVENTS

- Low Rise House Cup Events
- Applefest in Downtown Ithaca
- Pumpkin Picking at Iron Kettle Farm
- Corning Museum of Glass Trip
- Clay Workshop at the Johnson Museum
- Dinner and Movie Nights with Cheryl
- Study Skills Workshop with John
- Formal Bowling with Belina
**What is a Residence Hall Director?**

Residence Hall Directors (RHDs) are live-in, full-time professional staff members, most of whom have Master’s degrees in Education or related fields. The Low Rise RHD works closely with RAs and faculty members to plan programs and oversee the day-to-day operations of the Low Rise community. Feel free to stop by the Low Rise RHD office in Low Rise 7 if you want to chat, relax, or ask questions. Your RHD is here to help you succeed at Cornell.

**What is a Resident Advisor?**

Resident Advisors (RAs) are live-in student staff members that strive to create a sense of community within the Low Rises. RAs are chosen through a lengthy selection process and are trained in counseling, crisis management, educational programming, and roommate mediation, among other important topics. Your RA can play an integral role in connecting you to the Low Rise and Cornell communities. Get to know your RA!

**2014-2015 Staff:**

Look at the first 2 numbers of your room to find your RA!

- Dhruv Patel, 6106
- Hope Craig, 6206
- Diamond Oden, 6306
- Meghan Furton, 6406
- Fiona Woods, 7106
- Lisa Awaitey, 7206
- Troy Batugal, 7332
- Seth Lutsic, 7406


**Low Rise Faculty Programs**

Faculty engagement and involvement is integral to your success as a Cornell student. In the Low Rises, our experienced Faculty in Residence and Faculty Fellows strive to create a shared experience and supportive environment that fosters academic and intellectual learning, personal development, holistic wellbeing, and a sense of belonging and connectedness outside of the classroom.

**Faculty-in-Residence, Cheryl Finley**

Cheryl Finley is an Associate Professor in the Department of History of Art and Visual Studies. Cheryl earned her Ph.D. from Yale University in African American Studies and History of Art. Her research interests include African American and African Diaspora art history and visual culture, cultural memory theory, history of photography, the art market, museum studies, African architecture, and cultural heritage tourism. Cheryl and her daughter, Noura, live in Low Rise 7. Cheryl and Noura enjoy hosting students in their home for meals, spa nights and study breaks. Cheryl takes students to new exhibits at the Johnson Museum of Art, “dinner and a movie” film screenings, and a variety of performances on and off campus.

**Faculty Fellows, John and Nava**

Cheryl and the Low Rise staff collaborate often with our Faculty Fellows, Nava Scharf and John Belina. Nava and her husband, Stanley, have worked with Cornell Faculty Programs since the program began in 1980. Nava served as the first Faculty in Residence in the Low Rises and has been a FF since 1989. John has worked as a FF in the Low Rises for several years. John and Nava host “Brunch with Belina and Nava” every Sunday from 9:30 am to noon at RPCC, among other programs.
LOW RISE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

LOW RISE HALL COUNCIL

If you are interested in student government and want to be a leader in your residential community, the Low Rise Hall Council may be the organization for you! This group is advised by RAs who help Low Rise residents from every unit address community concerns, plan programs and provide direction to RAs and staff regarding the interests and needs of the community. Involvement in Hall Council will allow you to hone your communication skills, contribute to a team, collaborate with other groups on campus, and importantly, contribute to the culture and direction of the Low Rise Community.

RESIDENTIAL STUDENT CONGRESS

Hall Council members represent their community in Cornell’s Residential Student Congress (RSC). RSC aims to foster a sense of cohesion within the campus residential community by involving its members as active participants in the process of self-governance. It provides a forum to communicate and exchange ideas, as well as voice concerns about residential life.

NATIONAL RESIDENCE HALL HONORARY

National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) is a national organization that recognizes the top 1% of student leaders living on college campuses across the country. Students making significant contributions to the Low Rise and Cornell residential communities are nominated for membership. Involvement in Hall Council and RCS is a great way to get nominated for membership into this prestigious group. Several Low Rise residents, staff and faculty members were honored by NRHH during the 2013-2014 academic year. RAs Hope, Seth, and Diamond are all members of NRHH. Ask them for more information!