Congratulations and welcome to Cornell! The Mews Hall staff, including Resident Advisors, Faculty Fellows, Facilities, the Faculty Family-in-Residence and Residence Hall Director hope that you are as excited as we are that you will be living in Mews Hall this year!

This newsletter is designed to share with you a few important facts you should know before you move in and start the year. It includes information about the building, ways to get involved, policies and learning outcomes that we hold near to our hearts here at Cornell, information on building staff and faculty, and MOVE-IN DAY! But first, some information about your new home—Mews:

Mews Hall is home to 270 first-year students. It is located on North Campus along with all of the other first-year communities, making North Campus home to nearly 3,000 first year students and creating an environment where a class identity and life-long friendships can be established.

Mews Hall has a combination of double and single occupancy rooms in pod formation, all of which open up to a main hallway. There are a total of 12-14 bathrooms on each floor, and each bathroom is shared by 5-6 people. In total, there will be 62 students living on each floor. Hope you are good at remembering names!

Although people are the most important part of our community, Mews also has beautiful facilities. Two study lounges and a TV lounge are found on each floor. Off of each TV lounge there is a common area kitchen that is equipped with a stovetop, microwave, sink, and refrigerator for everyone’s use. In addition, Mews Hall has two laundry rooms, a bike storage room, and four multipurpose lounges designed for relaxing, playing the piano, hanging out, or studying. In December 2012, Mews received a student designed Meditation/Prayer Room. Any time you need space for quiet reflection, I hope you will take advantage of this beautiful space!

**North Campus**

North Campus has a little bit of everything and if classes weren’t on Central Campus, a mere 10-15 minutes away, it’s likely you wouldn’t have to leave North Campus at all.

There are two community centers located on North Campus named Robert Purcell Community Center and Appel Commons. Both of these buildings have dining options within them, and host numerous events throughout the year. Your mailbox is located at Appel Commons. Your mailbox number is the same as your room number. What could be easier to remember than that?!
Mews Hall Council, over the past several years, has been a very successful entity of Mews Hall. The Hall Council is in place to set community expectations, discuss building safety and facilities issues, organize hall meetings, and create programs/events for residents to attend throughout the year. Everyone is welcome to be a part of Mews Hall Council but there are a few elected positions. Look for information during move-in about becoming involved in Mews Hall Council.

Mews is allowed up to three representatives on the Residential Student Congress, so think about running for a position as the Mews Hall RSC Representative.

Involvement!

One of the most important factors of success in college is involvement.

Studies show that the students who are involved have a significantly higher G.P.A. Leadership, communication, organization, and networking are just a few of the valuable life skills that you can enhance and learn through involvement with different student groups and organizations.

Most importantly, involvement and leadership opportunities are what prospective employers are looking for. Through advanced leadership opportunities in college you will acquire and develop the skills and knowledge that employers want!

START NOW!!!

Looking for ways to get involved? Stop by to see your Resident Advisor or Residence Hall Director.

KEEP UP WITH ALL THE MEWS NEWS

With all of the things happening in Mews and on North, you may be wondering, “How will I keep up with it all?” Don’t worry, we have several ways to share information:

- Your RA is your personal connection to the community. (S)he will hold community meetings where you can agree on expectations for your wing, let you know about upcoming events, ask for your feedback, and be available whenever you have a question or need a listening ear
- Watch our bulletin boards and bathroom readers for information about Mews events, campus events, and opportunities to learn something new
- You will be added to an e-mail list serve that we will use to send community notifications and reminders to all Mews residents. It is important that you read any e-mails coming from Mews staff members and faculty
- And of course... “like” us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/cumews
Toward New Destinations—Embracing Diversity and Finding Support at Cornell

Mews Hall actively works to fulfill Cornell’s goals of helping students of all backgrounds to succeed, as stated in Cornell’s institutional framework for diversity, “Toward New Destinations.” Every resident in Mews must promote a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment/community for all.

Cornell has a bias related incident protocol, which calls for a quick and thorough investigation and response to all involved in any act of discrimination, prejudice, or oppression. If you witness or experience acts of bias, your RA or RHD can help you report these and offer some additional support.

College is a time to challenge long held views and values. A time to reshape your attitude and opinion. A time to look at the world through a new set of experiences and a different perspective. Take advantage of the wonderful opportunity, share of yourself, listen and understand others, celebrate all.

Please see the column at the right for a list of resources that can help you find both support and opportunities to challenge yourself here at Cornell.

My office is a Safe Place. Safe Place promotes the creation of a space defined by equality, free from discrimination and hate. It is a public proclamation of support and affirmation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning members of our community.

Displaying this card expresses the importance of speaking out against the marginalization of individuals through homophobia, heterosexism, and gender identity oppression! For more information visit www.lgbtrc.cornell.edu/safeplace/

Diversity Programming!

All individuals’ unique gifts and talents will be celebrated throughout the year. One fun and enjoyable way that information will be shared and celebrated is through programming.

Examples from past years at Cornell include: trips to the United Nations, the Vagina Monologues, Peer Educators in Gender and Diversity panels, performances by Ordinary People, Cricket on Rawlings Green, cultural dance and musical performances, Feed My Starving Children service project, American Sign Language lessons, the Mews International Dinner, and many more that you can help create this year!

RAs, Mews Hall Council, and all of you are responsible for ensuring we have diversity programming that fits yours needs. Please let your RA know what you would like to see and how you would be interested in contributing.

Come along with your fellow Mewsians on a journey “Toward New Destinations!”

Find YOUR Destination

Bias/Sexual Assault Reporting: https://publicdocs.maxient.com/incidentreport.php?CornellUniv

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center: http://lgbtrc.cornell.edu/

Office of Academic Diversity Initiatives: http://www.oadi.cornell.edu/

Center for Intercultural Dialogue: http://living.sas.cornell.edu/live/community/studentcenters/intercultural.cfm


Women’s Resource Center: http://wrc.dos.cornell.edu/

International Students and Scholars Office: http://www.isso.cornell.edu/

Student Disability Services: http://sds.cornell.edu

Learning Strategies Center: http://lsc.cornell.edu

Program Houses @ Cornell: http://living.sas.cornell.edu/live/wheretolive/programhouses/

Financial Aid: http://finaid.cornell.edu

Students Off Booze Enjoying Recovery: http://www.soberatcornell.org

Tatkon Center: http://newstudentprograms.cornell.edu/Tatkon/

Gannett Health Services: http://www.gannett.cornell.edu

Office of Student and Community Support: http://dos.cornell.edu/support/
THE FACULTY CORNER: MEET THE BYRNE FAMILY

Did you know that you will be living with a faculty member? Cornell possess a great team of faculty to challenge and teach you both in and out of the classroom. This year, Mews welcomes a new Faculty-in-Residence (FIR), Dr. Sahara Byrne, and her family. Here is a brief introduction from the Byrnes themselves:

We are the Byrne family and we are excited to share life in Mews Hall with you. I am Sahara Byrne, the Mews faculty-in-residence and a prof in the Department of Communication. I teach courses on media and I conduct research with children in the area of media psychology. My husband, Christopher, is an English teacher at Ithaca High School. He is into playing hockey, reading, writing, and playing vinyl records, from punk rock to bluegrass.

Our oldest daughter Bella is 15. She's in 10th grade. She wants to be a military surgeon. This year she will play hockey as the goaltender for the Ontario Hockey Academy. Our other daughter, Charlotte, is 9. She loves to play cook, play guitar, and play softball. She spends much of her time in her "studio" in our house painting on large canvases.

We'll be hosting all kinds of events. Please come visit us in our faculty apartment at 101 Mews! Promise me you'll come AT LEAST once per semester.

INTRODUCING...SUPPORT STAFF

Resident Advisors (RA's)
Resident Advisors are live-in student staff knowledgeable about campus resources and trained to assist you in your transition to college life.

Mews Hall has 9 RAs, and you may go to any of them if you have questions or problems. They are here to help you, whether you need information, want to plan a program or just need someone to talk to.

There is an RA on call every night from 7PM-8AM and all day on weekends to respond to any emergencies in the building. You will want to program the RA on-call number (607) 592-1975 into your phone.

Building Care and Maintenance
Mews Hall has a wonderful support staff of custodians who help to maintain the common areas of your floor. They will become part of your daily lives. Be thankful for the work they do and be sure to treat them with the respect they deserve for a hard job well done.

If you experience any facility concerns be sure to report them to the on-line maintenance web-site, available through the "Place a Maintenance Request" link at http://living.sas.cornell.edu. Our staff will respond as quickly as possible.

Faculty Fellows (FFs)
One of Mews Hall’s many perks is the Faculty Fellows. FFs have volunteered their time to the students of Mews Hall. They are excited to meet you and join in some of your first year experiences. Expect them to be present at many of the programs and make sure to use them as the valuable resource they are.

This year’s FFs will include:

Yomna Chami - Near Eastern Studies
Rosemary Avery - Policy Analysis & Management
Mostafa Minawi - Ottoman and Turkish Studies Initiative
Steve Jackson - Information Science

Resident Advisors (RA’s)

Your Residence Hall Director

What’s an RHD?
The Residence Hall Director is a full-time, live-in professional staff person. The RHD is responsible for long range vision and planning as well as day-to-day operations of the building, and is the Mews Hall representative to its parent organizations, Residential Programs, The Dean of Students Office, and Cornell University.

Your RHD has a Master’s degree in Student Affairs Administration and is available for counseling, advising, information on Mews Hall, and other issues relating to college life. Anytime you don’t know where to find an answer to a question, or who to talk to, your RHD is a great place to start!

So who is your RHD?
Me, Jeannine Crouse Hagadorn. I will be returning to Mews for my seventh year as a Residence Hall Director and I am delighted to have you all join me.

My family lives here in Mews with me and includes my husband Josh, our son Riley (4), daughter Anna Beulah (1.5), and basset hound Abbey (8).

We enjoy spending as much time outdoors as possible. We are always up for biking, berry picking, swimming, and camping excursions. When we are indoors, we like to dance, read, eat, and watch Mad Men.

Please stop by my office and say hi! I am looking forward to meeting each of you and to a terrific year ahead!

GOOOOO MEWS CREW!!!!!!!
Attitude

“The longer I live the more I realize the impact of attitude in life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% of what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes.”

~Greg Swindoll

There are many things in your control that will help make your year more enjoyable. Although one factor, the streets of Cornell, is out of your control.

Traffic is always a problem anytime you have thousands of people trying to move into the same place, using the same narrow winding streets, all at the same time.

The residence halls do not open until 8:00 a.m. on Friday, August 22nd. Please do not arrive early because you will not be allowed to enter the building before this time.

An arrival time has been assigned to you according to your last name. Students will not be allowed to enter the residential area of campus before their scheduled time, so plan accordingly.

Please don’t forget to bring your printed unloading permit!

Have you made your checklist yet?

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

Jeannine’s Office
110B Mews Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853
(607) 254-2363

Some great things to bring:
- A shower caddy— you are only allowed to leave a limited number of items in your bathroom cubby
- A bike and/or comfortable walking shoes. You may also sign up for Cornell’s bike share program at http://bigredbikes.cornell.edu/
- A coat suitable for cold/ wet weather. Rain boots and snow boots too
- Twin extra-long bedding
- Thumb tacks— we have tack strips for hanging decorations
- Unscented laundry soap and toiletries. Too many scents can be overwhelming or cause allergies for some of your peers

Things to leave at home:
- About half of what you think you need. Our rooms are small, and a wealth of gently used items are sold at affordable prices at the annual Dump and Run sale on Saturday and Sunday of Orientation Weekend
- Spider lamps, extension chords, stand-alone microwaves, hot plates, candles, adhesives, nails, and wall hooks. Please review the House Rules at http://living.sas.cornell.edu/live/movingin/community-rules-and-standards.cfm for our full policies regarding room decoration and fire safety
- Giant speakers— we have thin walls

There are many things in your control that will help make your year more enjoyable. Although one factor, the streets of Cornell, is out of your control.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful concerned citizens can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever does.

~ Margaret Mead