Welcome to Balch Hall!

Balch is Gorges

Balch Hall is a gorgeous, Gothic building, which opened in 1929. With its antique furniture, art, and ivy-covered walls, it is an idyllic Cornell residence hall.

Issue 1, Summer 2013

Upcoming events

- **Friday, August 23**
  - Residence Halls Open
    - 8:00am – 5:00pm
- **Friday, August 23**
  - First floor meeting
    - 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- **Saturday, August 24**
  - Second floor meeting
    - See your RA for more details
- **Wednesday, August 28**
  - Faculty Ice Cream Social
    - 7:00pm – 8:00pm
- **Saturday, December 21**
  - Residence Halls Close
    - 2:00pm

Welcome to Balch Hall

So you just learned where you would be living for your first year at Cornell, Balch Hall. As your Residence Hall Director, I’m hoping you're looking forward to meeting your new neighbors and being an active part of your new community. The staff in Balch strives to make our community welcoming, fun, and supportive for everyone. Our goal is to make Balch your home away from home… and yes, guests of all genders are allowed to visit. Balch is a beautiful place with remarkable décor. It's conveniently located on North Campus just steps away from Central Campus, and we have an outstanding staff (including RAs and Faculty) that is excited to meet you and make your transition into Cornell smooth, quick, and memorable!

This newsletter will help you better understand Balch and your future on-campus residential experience. If you have questions before move-in, please contact the Housing Office (housing@cornell.edu) or Balch’s direct email address (balch@cornell.edu). Also, please join our facebook group (pg.8)!

Kimberly Barth, '06
RHD - Balch Hall

Did you know?

- Balch houses over 440 residents
- Balch has sinks in almost every room! (Many neighbors share ‘sink rooms’)
- Balch has two wings; North Balch and South Balch
- Balch has four units. Each unit has large, luxurious lounges and full kitchens!
- Balch has two laundry rooms, and a bike storage room
Welcome to Balch Hall!

The Balch Community
It’s not about what it is, it’s about what it can become.

Balch Hall is home to over 440 female, first-year Cornell students. Built in 1929, Balch was endowed to be an all-female residence hall that provided beautiful surroundings and a safe living environment, which still holds true today.

Since everyone here is a first-year student, you are all in the same boat! This allows you to be part of a supportive environment where you can succeed as a student, grow as a woman and build lifelong friendships.

How quickly you meet people and make friends will depend largely on one thing – YOU! Leave your door open when you are home, say “hi” to people when you are walking down the hallway, hold the elevator for someone, watch TV or study in one of our spacious lounges, and join your neighbors when they attend a Faculty Dinner. Take advantage of your RA’s efforts to help you get to know each other. Most of all, get out there and meet new people who are looking for friends just like you!

How does Balch fit into your Cornell experience?

Cornell is about much more than what happens inside the classroom. You will be spending many of your free hours in Balch. The Balch community is a place where you can come together with friends, and participate in events that build social, leadership, and life skills. If you enter Cornell and Balch with an open mind, positive attitude, and willingness to become involved, exciting things are sure to happen!

North Campus

Balch Hall has one of the best locations on campus. We overlook Thurston Bridge and Central Campus, so we’re only a short distance from all of your classes. We have the Carol Tatkon Center right in our own building! You can walk downstairs in your pajamas to grab some hot chocolate from Carol’s Café, and then head to your first class in one of their seminar rooms. After class, you can take a quick stroll around Beebe Lake (it’s right across the street!) before heading to Appel Commons for lunch and to check your mail.

If you’re up for it, Balch has a beach volleyball court right in our backyard! If you’d prefer shade on a hot day, head over to the Helen Newman Recreation Center to bowl, swim, play badminton or basketball, lift weights at the gym, take a dance class, and so much more!
Who’s in our community?

There are many people who live and work in Balch Hall. We are here to meet and assist you in a variety of ways. Here are some brief descriptions of our roles:

Resident Advisors

Resident Advisors (RAs) are resource and referral agents, counselors, educators, event planners, community builders, and upperlevel Cornell students! RAs are live-in student staff members that have been trained in campus resources, educational programming, crisis management, and counseling. There are 11 RAs in Balch Hall. They are committed to creating a safe and productive community, where you can have fun and succeed academically. They are here to help you navigate Cornell and to make Balch a wonderful place to live. Take advantage of their knowledge and experience, knock on their doors even just to say ‘hi,’ and come to some of their programs!

Facilities Staff

Balch has a wonderful facilities staff that maintains the common areas, bathrooms, kitchens and hallways of your floor and building. Facilities staff also makes repairs throughout Balch through our “Maintenance Request” system. As a community, we must respect the physical spaces we live in and do our part to keep the building clean. Get to know the facilities staff on your floor – they are some of the friendliest people you’ll meet here at Cornell!

Balch Faculty Members

Balch Hall is lucky to have full-time Cornell University Faculty members who are interested in interacting with everyone living in our community. Along with their families, they spend some of their time creating, sponsoring and attending programs for the purpose of getting to know you outside of the classroom.

In Balch, we have a Faculty-in-Residence (FIR) family, The Merrills, who live in a warm, welcoming home across the street from North Balch (look for Balch FIR sign in their front yard).

In addition to the FIR family, we have Faculty Fellows (FFs) who live off campus. They regularly participate in Balch programs and are active members of the Balch Community. Our FFs this year are Cy Lee, Beth Milles, George Gull, and Margaret Frey.

Campus Life Staff

One of the first things you may notice when you enter Balch is that we have offices on the first and second floor. The professional staff members in these offices are wonderful. Additionally, many of their offices employ student workers, so stop by and introduce yourself sometime. They have restricted access to the residential wings of our building, so you will primarily see them as they pass by you with a smile in the second floor hallway.

And, of course, YOU!!!
Welcome to Balch Hall!

The Balch RA Staff
Come and knock on our door!

Yerin
Ashleigh
Shafika
Qurrat
Emily
Pritha
Elysha
Olivia
Paroma
Amanda
Zoe
Kim
Welcome to Balch Hall!

Balch Faculty-in-Residence Family

The Faculty-in-Residence Program was created in 1980 to enhance the integration of students’ academic and social lives. Some FIRs live in faculty apartments inside their building. The Balch FIR family, however, lives in a house right across the street. Go onto the Balch Unit 1 Lounge Patio, look through the trees, and you will see their house!

The Balch FIRs (Paul, Andi, and their children, Jacob and Parker) love to spend time with residents. They will be hosting weekly house dinners for the Balch community, taking students to various on-campus and off-campus events, participating in weekly RA events, and so much more! Keep an eye out for FIR emails, and ask your RAs for more information.

In addition to their FIR roles, Paul and Andi have other roles as well. Paul Merrill is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Music and the Director of Jazz Ensembles. He is a trumpeter, composer, and educator, and frequently performs around campus. Outside of her FIR role, Andi Merrill works as the Executive Director/Founder of the Opus Ithaca Music School where she spends most of her afternoons teaching.

Balch Faculty Fellows

This Faculty Fellow program was created in 1985 to help create more social opportunities between students and faculty, and to provide a warm living/learning environment for students. Balch FFs serve as mentors, teachers and leaders. Meet our 2013-2014 Faculty Fellows:

Beth Milles is an Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre, Film and Dance. A graduate of Cornell, Beth joined the faculty in 2001 after freelance directing in New York and Los Angeles.

George Gull is a Research Support Specialist with the Department of Astronomy.

Margaret Frey is the Director of Graduate Studies and an Associate Professor in the Department of Fiber Science and Apparel Design. A graduate of Cornell, Margaret joined Cornell’s faculty in 2002.

Cy Lee is a Professor of Food Science and Technology. Cy’s academic interests include biochemistry and functional aspects of fruits and vegetables related to antioxidative, anticancer, antineurodegenerative activities of those plant foods.

Balch Faculty Program

Our Balch Faculty members are sure to make you feel right at home. In addition to our Faculty Fellows, our Balch FIR family spends time hosting events within Balch, as well as welcoming Balchies to their home right across the street!
Welcome to Balch Hall!

Involve yourself and get active on campus!

One of the best ways to feel like you are a part of the Cornell community is to get involved in it! Take advantage of the orientation activities and be introduced to the hundreds of clubs and organizations at Cornell. Find something you enjoy and get active!

Also, get involved in Balch! Get to know your roommate, sink-mates, neighbors and everyone living in the building. Attend our weekly programs, and go on an off-campus trip with our RAs and faculty. Most likely, you will meet someone during your first year of college who will become a life-long friend.

Balch Hall Council

Beyond your floor, become active in the Balch Hall Council. This is a group of enthusiastic Balch residents who want to meet new people and make a difference in their community. Members represent fellow Balch residents by planning events for the building, advocating for student concerns, and actively working to create the type of community Balch residents want. Our first meeting will occur around the first week of classes. You will see more information on how to become a part of this group once you arrive on campus!

Womyn’s Center

Balch has its very own Womyn’s Center located in our Unit 3 lounge. Become a member and you will have access to cooking supplies, board games, practically thousands of DVDs (including a New Releases wall), and more! Also, consider applying for our Womyn’s Center Ambassador positions. These paid student employees operate the Womyn’s Center throughout the year. Plus, you get to work right here in Balch!

Peer Review Board

Beyond the hall, you can apply to be part of the Peer Review Board for North Campus. This is a group of students who are selected to meet with peers regarding violations of community policies. This group then decides if any policies were violated and assigns appropriate sanctions. It is a meaningful and important way to get involved.

Residential Student Congress

The RSC is an organization dedicated to promoting leadership and communication across residential communities. Each residence hall elects representatives to the RSC. As one of Balch’s representatives, you would help create campus events, discuss pertinent issues, decide on funding, and represent Balch during RSC meetings. RSC meets weekly on Tuesday evenings. Come to the first Balch Hall Council meeting to learn more about joining the RSC.

Words to live by…

Balch Hall whole-heartedly adopts Cornell’s statement on diversity and inclusiveness as reflected in “Open Doors, Open Hearts, and Open Minds.” An expectation of every resident in Balch is to promote a safe, welcoming and respectful community for all who work and live here.

College is a time to challenge long-held views and values. It is a time to reflect on attitudes and opinions, 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.

Balch Mission Statement

We, the women of Balch Hall, strive to build a safe space – a diverse, aware, and respectful, hate-free community to:

- Foster education and experiences leading to our enrichment, enlightenment, and empowerment.
- Enhance each woman’s self-esteem by being proactive in promoting independent thought and individuality.
Move-in Day!

On move-in day, thousands of students and their families drive onto North campus. Move-in day will be one of the most exciting and potentially stressful days that you experience in your first year. Our staff is here to help make sure you and your families have the most seamless, enjoyable day possible.

All Residence Halls open at 8:00am on Friday, August 23rd. We ask that you arrive at your scheduled time (see your Orientation packet and Housing letter for more details). Please do not arrive early. You will interfere with traffic on campus, and you will not be allowed to enter our building before your assigned time. Also, if you arrive a day or two early, please do not attempt to enter Balch to see your room. Our staff will be preparing Balch for your arrival, and we will not have time to give you an early tour.

When you arrive at Balch on move-in day, you will unload your belongings in either the North or South Balch loading dock. Every Balch resident will be unloading here, so we ask that you unload your belongings and move your vehicle as soon as you can. We will have TONS of orientation volunteers to help you unload your car and move your belongings into your room. You will be amazed at how fast it all happens!

Additionally, when you arrive at Balch, you will need to come to the Balch Unit 1 lounge to officially check in. The Balch RA staff will give you your keys and other essential Balch move-in materials. Since we have over 440 people checking-in, feel free to come check-in at our table while your family waits to find a place to unload.

You will receive more move-in related information later this summer with your parking pass, check-in timeslot, and maps. Good luck packing and travel safely!

Other things to know…

- Make sure to read through the Residential Programs House Rules before you arrive on campus. You’ll be signing a waiver indicating that you read and understand our campus rules and responsibilities. [http://living.sas.cornell.edu/live/movingin/upload/House-Rules-2012-2013.pdf](http://living.sas.cornell.edu/live/movingin/upload/House-Rules-2012-2013.pdf)

- Remember to read through your orientation packet! It has vital information including social and academic activities, and move-in day information. [http://newstudentprograms.cornell.edu](http://newstudentprograms.cornell.edu)

- Guests of any gender are permitted (and encouraged), but they must be escorted at all times. This pertains to every residence hall on campus.

- Balch has wireless internet in our rooms, lounges, and even our courtyard!

- Most first-year students do not bring cars to campus. Everything is typically within walking distance. We also have CULift services for students with long-term or short-term disabilities. Additionally, all first-year students receive a FREE bus pass to use during their first year. The TCAT bus service runs throughout campus and the city of Ithaca.
Welcome to your new home!

Now join our Balch Hall 2013-2014 facebook group!  
https://www.facebook.com/groups/171338999699076/  

- See more pictures of Balch!  
  - Rooms, lounges, events, and more!  
- Receive invites to Balch events from your RAs  
- Learn more about the building from the RA staff before you arrive on campus  
- Meet and speak with other future Balchies!

Have a great summer!  
We look forward to seeing you in August!

Kimberly Barth, ’06  
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