Welcome to Mary Donlon Hall!

Welcome to the Mary Donlon Hall Class of 2017 community! We are excited to have you join us. You may be feeling excited and a little nervous about moving to Ithaca and starting your journey at Cornell. We hope this letter helps you get to know us, the Mary Donlon Hall staff (RHD, RAs and Faculty).

This letter is the first step in helping you better understand Cornell. It will give you a peek at Donlon and highlight a few important things you should know before the year begins. You will also get more Cornell and Donlon info from your RA (Resident Advisor) at your first floor meeting.

Lastly, if you have any questions about Donlon, move-in, or Cornell, please feel free to contact the housing office (housing@cornell.edu or 607-255-5368) or Donlon’s direct e-mail address (donlon@cornell.edu). Enjoy the rest of your summer, good luck packing, and have safe travels!

- Blayne Stone—RHD, Mary Donlon Hall

Donlon Stats:

**Number of residential floors:** 5  
**Total number of residents:** 470  
**Number of residents per floor:** 93  
**Number of RAs:** 15  
**Number of RAs per floor:** 3

**Building/Floor Set-up:**

**Room Configuration:** With the triangular configuration of the building, there are 3 “wings” on each floor configured in a “traditional” corridor style. All but 4 rooms per floor are doubles with the other 4 set up as 2 singles and 2 quads.

**Room Set-up:** All rooms come with the following for each resident: a bed, desk, desk chair, study lamp, chest of drawers, closet, bookshelf with one shelf, and waste basket. Rooms also have one recycling can.

**Bathrooms:** There are 3 common bathrooms per floor – one men’s, one women’s, and one all-gender.

**Lounges and Kitchens:** Each floor has a large common lounge for the floor right off the main stairs and elevators with study space, seating for socializing, and a common TV. Off of each lounge is a kitchen with a stove, refrigerator, and microwave.

**First Floor:** The main floor of Mary Donlon boasts the Formal Lounge, a large quiet study space, the Donlon library with stacks that are open nightly, a media lounge with large TV and DVD player, additional study lounge, piano, and seating for hanging out with friends.
The Donlon Community

We’re all in this together...

Mary Donlon Hall is home to approximately 470 first year Cornell students. Because everyone is a first year student, you are all in the same boat! This allows you to be part of a supportive environment where students can succeed and offer you the chance to 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, help someone hang a poster, watch TV with people, and join the floor when they attend a Faculty Dinner. Take advantage of your RAs’ efforts to help you get to know each other. Most of all, get out there and meet others like you looking for new friends!

How does Donlon fit into your Cornell experience?

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

GET INVOLVED

One of the best ways to feel like you are a part of the Cornell campus 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 that you enjoy and get active.

Also you have the opportunity to get involved in our very own community. As has been said a few times, get to know your neighbor and the people living in the building. Be sure to take time hang out with friends on your floor and participate in the activities happening all around you.

Beyond getting to know people, get involved planning things for your floor to do together. Your RAs will be doing this, but they always welcome help and want to offer things that you all are interested in doing.

In addition, you can become active in the Hall Council. This is a group of Donlon residents who get together to plan events for the building, listen to concerns of the residents, and actively work to create the type of community the residents of the building want. Within the first week of getting on campus, you will see more information on how to become a part of this group!

Beyond the hall, you can apply to be part of the Peer Review Board. 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.

Words to live by...

Mary Donlon 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 Donlon is to promote a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment 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 your 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.

Another Way to Get INVOLVED!

The Residential Student Congress (RSC) is an organization dedicated to promoting communication among the residential communities and encouraging leadership in their members. As a General Executive Member (GEM), you would take part in a branch of student government which places special emphasis on residential living within the context of life on a college campus. Specifically, you would represent our residential community in the Residential Student Congress, help to develop pertinent programs and initiatives, and present the community's concerns to the assembled GEMs. Be sure to come to the first Donlon Hall Council meeting to find out how to be a part of RSC.
Who’s in our community?

There are many people who live and work in the building with you. They can be very valuable resources for you – take the time to get to know a bit about them and what they do. Here are a few.

Resident Advisors

Resident Advisors (RAs), wear many hats. They are resource and referral agents, educators, event planners, community builders, and just like you they are students. RAs are live-in student staff who have been trained in different types of listening skills, various resources on campus, educational programming, and crisis management. There are 15 RAs in Mary Donlon Hall, three on each floor. They, and the entire Donlon staff, are committed to creating a safe and productive community in which to reside. They are here to help you navigate Cornell and to make Donlon a wonderful place to live. Take advantage of their knowledge and experience!

Residence Hall Director

All Residence Hall Directors (RHDs) at Cornell are full-time, year-round employees of the university. Additionally, most have master’s degrees, most in the area of College Student Personnel/Higher Education Administration, so this is really what we love to do! Day-to-day, they are here for you when you need help beyond your RAs. They supervise the RAs and oversee everything that happens in the building. They also assist the hall government and are committed to making their communities a great place for everyone to live.

Assistant Residence Hall Director

Donlon also has an Assistant Residence Hall Director (ARHD); she 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.

Facilities Staff

Donlon has a wonderful facilities staff that maintains the common areas, bathrooms, and hallways of your floor and building. As a community we appreciate the work they do by respecting the physical space/building in which we live, and we do our part to keep the building clean. Get to know the facilities staff on your floor – they help keep our home running smoothly and looking beautiful!

Faculty Programs

There are full-time CU faculty members who have a strong interest in undergraduate students who live in the residence halls. They, and their families, spend part of their time sponsoring and attending programs for the purpose of interacting with and getting to know you all outside of the classroom. The Faculty-in-Residence, Marianella Casasola, lives in an apartment in Donlon.

The Faculty Fellows are faculty who live off campus, but will frequent the hall to hang out with you and are involved in the Donlon community.

Acronyms

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>Resident Advisor</td>
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<td>RHD</td>
<td>Residence Hall Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARHD</td>
<td>Assistant Residence Hall Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIR</td>
<td>Faculty in Residence</td>
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<td>FF</td>
<td>Faculty Fellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>RSC</td>
<td>Residential Student Congress</td>
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<tr>
<td>RP</td>
<td>Residential Programs is the Department that oversees all residence halls</td>
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<td>RPCC</td>
<td>Robert Purcell Community Center = Activity center, dining and mail location for Donlon</td>
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And of course, YOU!
My name is Katie, and I am a Developmental Sociology major, with a minor in French and Inequalities studies. I am from Westwood, Massachusetts, which is really close to Boston. I am the youngest of three in my family, with two older brothers. At Cornell, I have participated in women’s club lacrosse, Phi Sigma Pi Honors Fraternity, and Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority. I love to exercise and play sports, so come find me if you ever need a gym buddy! My door is always open if you need advice about classes, your major, or just about anything. I will be graduating in May of 2014, so I look forward to getting to know you all for my last year at Cornell!

¡Hola! My name is Nick Buscaglia, and I am a junior here at Cornell. This will be my 2nd year as an RA in Donlon. I aspire to be a zoo veterinarian and want to attend vet school here at Cornell. I am involved with multiple organizations on campus, including the Cornell Raptor Program, Pre-Vet Society, Cornell Catholic Community, Hon-Nun-De-Kah (CALS Honor Society), and the Central American Club. I volunteer in the vet school, at the Cornell Wildlife Health Center, and with the Center for Animal Resources and Education (CARE).

"Hi Donlon! My name is Inge (pronounced like Inguh) Chen, and I'm currently a junior studying Industrial and Labor Relations with a minor in Business. On campus, I'm involved in the Student Assembly, AIESEC, 85 Broads, Big Red Consulting, and ILR Ambassadors. In my spare time, I'm a hiker, amateur photographer, pianist/violinist, badminton enthusiast, and origami lover, but I'm open to new experiences. If you ever have any questions or problems, please feel free to reach out; I'm more than willing to help, and I can't wait to get to know all of you this year!"

My name is Owen and I am originally from Syracuse, NY. I will be a senior biology major in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences this year. Besides resident advising, I am in a community service fraternity and do computational neuroscience research. In whatever free time I have left, I enjoy distance running and playing a little guitar. I am really looking forward to meeting you all this fall!

"Hi Donlon! My name is Inge (pronounced like Inguh) Chen, and I'm currently a junior studying Industrial and Labor Relations with a minor in Business. On campus, I'm involved in the Student Assembly, AIESEC, 85 Broads, Big Red Consulting, and ILR Ambassadors. In my spare time, I'm a hiker, amateur photographer, pianist/violinist, badminton enthusiast, and origami lover, but I'm open to new experiences. If you ever have any questions or problems, please feel free to reach out; I'm more than willing to help, and I can't wait to get to know all of you this year!"

My name is Stephen Afadapa and I was born in Houston, TX, an area I've lived in my entire life. I am a member of Cornell's Track and Field team and I am currently the Freshman Record Holder in the High Jump at 2.16m (7' 1''). I'm a huge sports fan and I am in the school of Arts and Science studying Government.

Jesse comes from the far, far away land of Ithaca, NY. He is a psychology major specializing in social psychology and statistics. In his free time, Jesse enjoys soccer, video games and an unhealthy obsession with Game of Thrones.

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Welcome to Donlon, I am Atticus DeProspo, an RA in Donlon. I am also a member of the Varsity Men’s Soccer Team, and a Campus Tour Guide. I enjoy sports, Broadway theatre, outdoor activities and cooking. I look forward to meeting you all soon and welcoming you to the Cornell/Donlon family!

Hello! My name is Elizabeth. I am a rising senior Human Development major from Atlanta, GA. Outside of classes, I am involved in research in the Laboratory of Brain and Cognition. Some of my favorite on-campus activities include seeing movies at Cornell Cinema and grabbing coffee in Mann library. I look forward to meeting all of you!

Hello! My name is Richard Thompson, and I am a Biological Sciences major here at Cornell. I’m in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and I’m from Northborough, MA. This will be my first year on staff in Donlon, although I lived there this past year as a resident and had a great time! Other than being an RA, I am a member of the Cornell University Gay-Straight Alliance, which is a programming group that focuses on members of the LGBT community. During my free time – which is few and far between being a full time student at Cornell – I like to draw, read, and spend time with my friends! I’m really looking forward to this academic year, and I hope you are just as excited!

My name is Sitara and I’m a junior in the College of Engineering from Danville, California. I am majoring in Biological Engineering and minoring in Business and Biomedical Engineering. I am involved on campus as an undergraduate teaching assistant and I am also an undergraduate researcher at the Lucks Laboratory for RNA Engineering. I have a younger sister and a yellow lab who I absolutely love. My favorite things about Cornell are the snow, the daffodils, and Synapsis Café.

My name is Jakira Shaw and I’m a sophomore in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations with a minor in Business. I’m the secretary of Cornell’s Caribbean Students Association, a mentor in Project Lansing and a member of the Society for Human Resource Management. I’m originally from Queens but now live in Long Island, NY and am a proud New Yorker. I absolutely love food, all the different kinds. I also enjoy music, dance and fashion. I look forward to another amazing year here at Cornell!
Hi! My name is Kate Redford and I am currently a sophomore at Cornell University studying (hopefully) Industrial and Labor Relations. I was admitted into the Hotel School last year and I am currently in the process of transferring into the ILR school. I was born and raised in Southern California (I’m from Long Beach in case any of you Californians know where that is) and before you ask, yes I can surf, not well but I can. Some more random facts about me: my favorite author is Kurt Vonnegut, I’m addicted to coffee and spending absurd amounts of money on coffee (I like the whole cliché coffee shop experience), my favorite color is purple, I have a dog named Shadow, I am an only child, I went to an all girl’s Catholic high school, and my favorite off-campus place to eat and study is Stella’s. As for future goals, I am undecided at the moment; however, law school does seem like a possibility. Well enough of my blabbering, I can’t wait to meet you all next year! It’s going to be a good one.

Addison is a Donlon "lifer," that is he has lived here since his freshman year. He studies business (finance) and computer science, and is interested in entrepreneurship. He is involved on campus as an RA, a manager for Cornell Consulting Group, and a Partner at The Cornell Alpha Fund among other things. In his free time, he plays guitar, listens to music, and works on various business projects.

Nicolette is a junior studying Biological Sciences (concentrating in Nutrition) in CALS. She is also pursuing a minor in AEM. She is excited to work as an RA again in Donlon Hall this year! Outside of being an RA, she is also involved in Alternative Springs Breaks and the O’Brien Laboratory on campus. She is originally from Rochester, NY and loves the Ithaca area—from all of the hiking trails to shopping in the Commons. She looks forward to getting to know all of you!
Move-in Day!!!

A challenge that you will face on move in day are the streets of Ithaca. Thousands of students and their families will be driving on the narrow winding streets of campus and traffic is inevitable. The Residence Halls do not open until 8:00 AM on Friday, August 23rd. We understand this will be a very long awaited and exciting day for you. However, please do not arrive early because you will not be allowed to enter the building before this time. Additionally, if you arrive a day or so early, please do not come over to try to see Donlon or your room. The staff will busily be making final preparations for you and we won’t be able to show you around.

Additionally, an arrival time has been assigned according to your last name. Students will not be allowed to enter the residential area of the campus before their scheduled arrival time, so plan accordingly. You will receive a color-coded parking pass valid only during your scheduled arrival time.

When you get to Donlon, you will unload your belongings from the “Donlon Circle” - the small half-circle parking lot in front of the building. This is where everyone moving into the building will have to park, so we ask that you unload your belongings and move your vehicle as soon as you can. To facilitate this process, there will be numerous orientation volunteers (upper-class students who have come back to campus early to help introduce you to Cornell) helping you unload your car and move your belongings to your room. You will be amazed at how fast it all happens! Also facilities and orientation folks have devised a numbering system to move folks in and out of the circle quickly.

When you arrive you will need to come inside Donlon and check in. This is where you will receive your keys and other important Donlon move-in materials. Because there are almost 500 people checking-in, there may be a wait inside too, so while you are waiting to get a place to unload or before they have “called your number” you can come into the Donlon lobby to check-in. That way you have all your info and keys, so you can go on up to your room when you have a good unloading spot.

This is not the last you will hear of move-in. More information will be sent to you later in the summer giving you your parking pass, times you can check-in, and maps. Again, good luck packing and travel safely. We look forward to your arrival!

Special dates of interest:
- Move in Day Friday August 23rd 8am - 5pm
- First Floor Meeting: Friday, August 23rd from 7-9pm

Random Facts of Interest

- All residence halls are completely smoke free. And you must be 25 feet away from the building to smoke outside.
- 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.
- There is no overhead light in your room, so you will want to bring additional lighting for your room. However, any halogen lights over 100 watts, “spider lamps”, and extension cords are not allowed (surge protectors are OK).
- Remember to check out your orientation packet! A whole host of activities are planned to help you acclimate and support your transition to Cornell.
- Through Cornell’s RESNET program, you have access to wireless internet throughout the building.
- Most first year students do not bring a car. Everything you need is usually within walking distance. There is also bus service to all of campus and throughout the city of Ithaca, and all first-year students will be receiving a free bus pass to use this service this year.