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 heart 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 3000 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 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 a maximum 62 students living on each floor. Hope you are good at remembering names!

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. Anytime 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, its 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 several events throughout the year. Your mailbox is located at Appel Commons.

The Helen Newman Recreation Center is also on North Campus. Helen Newman has courts for volleyball, dodge ball, and basketball as well as a gym and swimming pool. A bowling alley is located on the bottom floor of Helen Newman (so bring your ball and shoes and get ready for “Mews goes Bowling”). There are plenty of other opportunities on North for fun and I am sure you will explore and find them all.
**Welcome to a Community of Peers**

**Involvement in Hall Government or “Mews Hall Council”**

Mews Hall Council, over the past several years, has been a very successful entity of Mews Hall. The Hall Council is in place to make financial decisions, 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.

**Residential Student Congress (RSC)**

RSC is the student leadership body representing all residential students at Cornell. The group meets 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 RHD Jeannine Hagadorn at jc2298@cornell.edu, or let your RA know you are interested.

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.

**Move In Day – Getting Off to a Good Start!**

When does all of this excitement begin? Right away on move-in day! The residence halls open at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, August 23rd. Your card access will not be activated until this time, so there is no benefit to arriving early.

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

In a mailing, you will receive a map and a color-coded parking pass valid only during your scheduled arrival time. Please bring the map and loading permit along on your journey so that you may carefully follow the approach routes provided.

Those of you with a later check in time are encouraged to arrive early and take care/advantage of the other things you need to do on move in day. Those things include getting your student ID card, taking your swim test, finalizing class schedules, and attending the information fair and campus programs extravaganza.

Be on the lookout for advertisement about opening day hall programs such as an ice cream social and/or hall dinner. You will have a chance to get to know your entire floor later in the evening at your floor meeting.
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.

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, Zap Panels, Dialogue on Diversity, Café con Leche, fashion shows, ethnic food nights, Stepping West, Cricket on Rawlings Green, 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”!

“...to ensure that students, from their very first year on campus, are exposed to the full range of intellectual and cultural opportunities inherent in the university.”

~Bessie Anderson Stanley

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.issso.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 14. She’s in 9th 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 8. She loves to play cook, play guitar, and just started playing 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 RA’s, 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 a RA on call every night and all day on weekends to respond to any emergencies in the building.

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 (TMA) web-site. 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
- David Feathers - Design and Environmental Analysis
- Steve Jackson - Information Science

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.

So who is your RHD?

Me, Jeannine Hagadorn. I will be returning to Mews for my sixth 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, daughter Anna Beulah, and bas- set hound Abbey.

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

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

GOOOOO MEW'S 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.

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

~Margret Mead

**RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS**

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

Some great web-sites to check out before you arrive.  
(must be entered exactly as written)

http://collegeprep.okstate.edu  
What to expect and how to handle college

http://kidshealth.org/teen/school_jobs/school/college.html  
Going to College – Survival info

http://www.plansforme.com/mynewmove/collagemove/  
Info about moving to college

http://www.campuslife.cornell.edu  
The homepage for Cornell’s Housing and Dining  
Residential Programs offices and to get a sneak peek of Mews Hall

**Keys to Success in College and Life**  
By John Spence  
www.johnspence.com

Have you made your checklist yet?