Welcome to Ujamaa!

Ujamaa Residential College is a dynamic and multifaceted residential community that was created by Black students at Cornell in 1972. Taken from the Kiswahili language, there is no single word in English that adequately conveys the full extent of what Ujamaa actually means. However, the premise of the Ujamaa Residential College community encourages its residents to work together as a family, collectively and cooperatively, in order to help one another excel. Our programmatic theme focuses on issues impacting developing communities in the African Diaspora in both abroad and domestic locations. One can learn more about the significance of this community by planning or participating in various activities and programs that take place in Ujamaa during the academic year.

You will find that Ujamaa is an engaging environment, created to support your growth and development. Once again I welcome you to the community and look forward to interacting with you in the future! Please feel free to stop by my office, or speak with one of Ujamaa’s Resident Advisors if you have any questions about Cornell or the broader Ithaca community.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I'll see you when you arrive in August!

Sincerely,

Theoria M. Cason
Residence Hall Director
Ujamaa Residential College

Community motto... I am because We are
People you should know...

**Ujamaa Resident Hall Director (RHD):**

The Residence Hall Director (RHD) is a full-time professional staff member who lives in the residence hall. The RHD is responsible for the long-range planning as well as day-to-day operations of the building. The RHD supervises and trains the RAs and other student staff, handles disciplinary situations, and provides hands-on guidance while you learn about the many opportunities available to you at Cornell.

Theoria Cason is the Residence Hall Director for Ujamaa Residential College. Originally from North Carolina, she attended the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, earning a degree in Psychology; with minors in Biology and Spanish. She then completed her Masters degree in College Student Personnel at Western Illinois University. She is a very engaging young professional, committed to fostering the growth and development of her students, while supporting their interests and initiatives as well. Her office is located off the main lobby on the first floor. She would love it if you would stop by and say hi! 😊

**Ujamaa Resident Advisors (RAs):**

RAs are Cornell students just like you. They provide on-call emergency coverage for the building, put together fun events for you to attend, and simply serve as a resource to help with residential concerns or campus questions. RA doors are open for your questions or even just to talk.

Pictured below is your 2013-2014 Ujamaa Residential staff! From left to right: Kira West- Unit 4 RA; Theoria Cason Ujamaa RHD; Joan Bouquet- Unit 3 RA; Kibrett Facey- Unit 2 RA and Domonique Collins-Unit 1 RA.
People you should know...

Ujamaa Faculty Fellows:

Faculty fellows are full-time Cornell University faculty members who have a strong interest in undergraduate students and maintain a relationship with a particular Residence Hall. The goal of the faculty fellow program is to involve faculty in the lives of students and to promote a meaningful relationship outside of the classroom setting. Below you will find a list of Ujamaa Faculty Fellows:

- Dr. N’Dri Assie-Lumumba: Professor - Africana Studies & Research
  N’Dri T. Assié-Lumumba is a Professor of African and Diaspora education, comparative and international education, social institutions, African social history, and the study of gender in the Africana Studies and Research Center at Cornell University. She has been a Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science since 2006. In 1996-1997 she served as Director of the Cornell Program on Gender and Global Change (GGC) and in 2010-2011 as Director of Graduate Studies of Africana Studies at Cornell University. She is also a member of four other Cornell graduate fields: Education; International Development; International Agriculture and Rural Development; the Cornell Institute of Public Affairs (CIPA). Click here: [http://www.asrc.cornell.edu/people/ndri-assie-lumumba.cfm](http://www.asrc.cornell.edu/people/ndri-assie-lumumba.cfm) to learn more.

- Dr. Carole Boyce Davies: Professor - Africana Studies & Research & English
  Dr. Carole Boyce Davies joined Africana Studies and Research Center at Cornell University from the English and African-New World Studies at Florida International University (FIU). Recruited to build the African-New World Studies Program at FIU, she served as its director for three successful three-year appointments, which moved the program to international recognition...Currently, Dr. Boyce Davies is writing a series of personal reflections called Caribbean Spaces. Click here: [http://www.asrc.cornell.edu/people/boyce-davies.cfm](http://www.asrc.cornell.edu/people/boyce-davies.cfm) to learn more.

- Dr. James Turner: Professor Emeritus - Africana Studies & Research
  James Turner is the founding Director of the Africana Studies & Research Center—founded 1969—and is a professor emeritus of African and African American Politics and Social Policy at Cornell. He also organized Cornell’s Council on African Studies, forming a basis for the university's interdisciplinary African Studies. Click here: [http://www.asrc.cornell.edu/people/turner.cfm](http://www.asrc.cornell.edu/people/turner.cfm) to learn more.
Community Engagement

Residential Community Involvement:

In an effort to truly build community the Ujamaa Residential Staff try to solicit feedback and engagement from the residents through collaboration with in-hall residential student leaders. We encourage you to consider becoming a Unit Rep. for the community.

- Ujamaa Unit Representatives (Unit Reps.) are residents who actively interact with members of their unit and the greater Ujamaa community to help contribute feedback and ideas that promote our collective success throughout the year; while also proudly, and responsibly representing Ujamaa, when interacting with others outside of our community! Beyond promoting and attending programs within the community, Unit Reps. provide incite and perspective to enhance the residential experience. Unit Reps. may further their involvement by representing the hall in Residential Student Congress.

- Residential Student Congress (RSC) is the student leadership body representing all residential students at Cornell. The group meets weekly on to discuss pertinent issues regarding our residential communities, decide on funding, and host a variety of events including the Big Red Chill. RSC is a great way to have your voice heard, plan some fun events, or simply get some more leadership experience. Unit Reps. can serve as 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 Theoria Cason tc439@cornell.edu.
Community Engagement

Community Programming Initiatives:
- Community dinners
- Visit to the United Nations
- Community service projects
- Cultural celebrations
- Games nights
- Guest lecturers
- Student-lead discussions
- Movie Nights
- Ujamaa study groups
- Unity Hour programs
- Welcome barbecue
- Off-campus trips
- And much more!

Community Spaces:
- Multipurpose programming lounge
- Community kitchens
- Computer room
- Conference room
- Small library
- Study lounges
Move-in Information

What to bring:

- Bedding: Extra-long twin sheets OR you may take advantage of Cornell’s optional linen purchase plan. For more information visit [www.rhl.org/com](http://www.rhl.org/com)
- Toiletries
- Towels
- Warm clothes for the Winter

You may also find it helpful to bring these additional items:

- A small refrigerator: (may NOT draw more than 7.3 amps [300 watts] to start and 1.4 amps while running) OR you may also rent one. For more information visit [www.campusspec.com](http://www.campusspec.com) or call 1.800.525.7307
- Bicycle: there are bike racks located throughout campus.
- Cookware to use in the building kitchens
- Room decorations
- UL-approved outlet strip with breaker switch
- Any other items that will make you feel comfortable

What NOT to bring:

- Pets– except for fish in a 10 gallon or smaller aquarium
- Alcohol or paraphernalia if you are under 21 years of age (legal drinking age in the US).
- Illegal drugs or paraphernalia
- Octopus/Spider lamps (lamps with many arms).
- Extension cords or multi-plug adapters
- Fabric wall hangings
- Water heaters without automatic shut off
- Microwaves
- Halogen lamps with bulbs over 150 watts
- Candles

Things to consider:

1. It's a good idea to check with your roommate before the academic year begins so you don't duplicate items.
2. You should also record serial numbers of expensive equipment such as computers, printers, stereos, TV's, cameras, bikes, iproducts, etc. prior to your arrival.
3. Check the house rules for a complete list at: [http://www.campuslife.cornell.edu/campuslife/resprog/prb-house-rules.cfm](http://www.campuslife.cornell.edu/campuslife/resprog/prb-house-rules.cfm)