It is that exciting time of year again when we welcome our students back to campus after a long summer break. I hope you all had a wonderful summer and got to enjoy the outdoors a bit. This has been an especially busy summer with many projects underway on campus, but miraculously everything always comes together for opening day! It is important to remind ourselves that serving students is the basis for all our good work. Here are some highlights since my last newsletter:

**Transportation, Operations and IT**

Joe Lalley’s departure from Cornell necessitated several moves to re-assign his areas of responsibility.

The Facilities Information Technology group, headed by Debra Howell, now reports to Dave Howe in Facilities Administration and Finance (FAF). Facilities Customer Service, Mail Service, and Red Runner service, headed by Joe Remillard, will also become part of FAF. Joe will serve as communications coordinator for FS on an interim basis as Wendy Franzese transforms into her new role in the Project Services Group. Joe will manage the FS website and coordinate all communication within and external to the division.

We also welcome Ben Kuo, Director of Fire Safety and Emergency Management with Environmental Health and Safety, to FS as he begins his tenure as Interim Director of Transportation Services. Ben is a highly respected professional who manages Cornell’s emergency planning and safety efforts ensuring safe and continuous operations of our campus. I am thrilled that Ben agreed to join us; please welcome him when you get a chance.

**Campus Manager Change**

I recently announced changes in Campus Management in the SAS and Endowed zones. Dave Howe, who has been serving as the Campus Manager in Endowed Zone 2, will be assigned Campus Manager in the Student Academic Service (SAS) zone. Maria Cimilluca, who has been serving as Campus Manager for SAS, will assume the Campus Manager role in Endowed Zone 2. Maria, as you know, has overall responsibility of all maintenance zones. This change was necessitated as a result of the happy news that Maria’s husband Sam has joined the SAS Facilities team. Please welcome Sam to the facilities team at Cornell.

**United Way**

Anne Kenney and I are extremely excited about the upcoming United Way campaign. Our superb group of Ambassadors represents most units on campus. We met several times this summer and set our CU campaign goal at $815,000. Although not an official goal, we hope to increase our overall participation rate to 18 percent, an increase from last year’s rate of 14.5%. The official kickoff to the campaign takes place at the Day of Caring event at Stewart Park on September 20. Between now and then we will be collecting non-perishable food items. Please look for donation boxes that will be placed around our buildings.
The FS Ambassadors have also planned some exciting United Way-related events this month, including a raffle for prizes that include hotel stays, Campus-to-Campus bus tickets, and restaurant coupons. They cost only $5 for an arm’s length of tickets. On August 28, look for the ice cream truck at several locations around our facilities, including the Humphreys Service Building at 12:00 noon and 2:00 pm. The drawing for raffle winners will follow at 2:30 pm. All proceeds from both events will go to the United Way. Tickets can be purchased in Facilities Customer Service, room 105 in the Humphreys Service Building. Our FS UW Ambassadors are Brian Goodell, Kristi Cooley, Debra Howell, Cindy Lockwood, Pamela Lockwood, Rob Morris, Juliet Parsons, Jaimi Shoemaker, and Suzanne Kern Wilkins.

Abena Ojetayo

Abena Ojetayo is featured in an amazing video on the Portraits website developed by University Communications. Abena, an engineer in Facilities Engineering, was highlighted for her role in designing the Cornell Tech’s campus in New York City with a green infrastructure that is a model of sustainability. Abena is a LEED-accredited professional; she was named one of the 10 New Faces of Civil Engineering for 2013 by the American Society of Civil Engineers as the industry’s next generation of leaders. I hope you get a chance to view the video.

Sustainability

Cornell has been recognized for our leadership in sustainability in two important publications. The Sierra magazine ranked Cornell fifth among their list of 10 “coolest” schools in the country. The editors noted that Cornell students can learn about sustainability in more than 300 classes, and that Cornell is one of the few universities where students can minor in climate change. Also cited was the drop in greenhouse gas emissions of 25 percent and our investment of $45 million toward energy conservation projects. Princeton Review also scored Cornell a 99 – the highest possible score – in the just-released 2014 Green Honor Roll, the Princeton Review’s environmental ratings. Out of 832 colleges, only 22 colleges obtained the highest score. Breaking into the top ranks in these publications is a direct result of Cornell’s sustainability actions across research, teaching, and practice.

I’m looking forward to working with all of you to make it another successful year for Facilities Services and the University.

Kyu