The Steward
A newsletter for IPP staff

Teamwork
Kyu Whang, Vice President for IPP

Hello everyone and welcome to the first IPP newsletter of 2016.

I was struck by the level of teamwork exhibited this past fall when IPP responded to President Garrett’s call for streamlining ideas. Suggestions came from every part of the organization: custodians, architects, administrators, and tradespeople to name just a few examples.

A truly diverse range of roles, experiences, and points of view were reflected as people were involved in discussions or made suggestions online or through the suggestion box in Customer Service.

The challenges the President sought to address through her first big initiative since coming to Cornell are still very real in the coming year. We must become better at what we do in order to advance Cornell’s teaching and research mission, attract world class faculty, and provide the best environment possible for learning.

Meeting these goals will require teamwork, not only between individuals, but between departments and divisions as well as across roles and responsibilities. We have to work together effectively.

Real teamwork requires a unity of objectives, but is often confused with a unity of approach, or style, or thinking. To operate as a team we must embrace our places as unique contributors.

In 2015, IPP established one of the foundations for effective teamwork; our strategic plan outlines clear goals for the organization that we can all work toward. We know that to achieve those goals we must have a work environment conducive to effective teamwork. That means one that fosters trust, is free of individual agendas, and promotes cooperation and open communication between departments and people, and one where differences in experience and point of view are used as building blocks and not road blocks.

This is where we have to walk the walk on diversity, and why it’s so important to us. By respecting and promoting diversity of background, experience, thought etc. we create an environment for true teamwork. Teamwork is not about building silos around like thinking and similar approaches. It’s about fully utilizing the talents of unique contributors toward the same goals.

As we move into an exciting and challenging year, reflecting on the real meaning of teamwork and affirming our commitment to it is critical to build on what we accomplished in 2015.
While construction activities here in Ithaca are busy enough, it’s an all-out blitz on Roosevelt Island, where an elite team of Cornell construction managers led by Andrew Winters, Senior Director of Capital Projects, are constructing an entire new campus from scratch on a small Manhattan outcropping in the East River. In addition to an entirely new (public) loop road with new utility infrastructure, four separate buildings are under construction concurrently. Namely, the Bloomberg Center (the “BC” is the future home of the Joan & Irwin Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute); the Bridge at Cornell NYC Tech (a center of collaboration between private business and Cornell Tech innovators); the Central Utility Plant; and a private Residential Tower ("resi").

As seen in the photos below (from fieldcondition.com), it’s a busy construction site. As of this date, all of these facilities are on schedule to allow the campus to open in fall of 2017.

This fieldcondition.com shot provides a great overview of the campus from the Queensborough Bridge just before Christmas 2015. The BC is on the right, the Resi on the left, and the Bridge in the center background. The CUP is hidden behind the existing recreation center tennis bubble (not Cornell’s!) in the foreground. The tidal East River surrounds the site, with Manhattan to the right (west) and Queens to the left (east).
A shot from the northwest: the BC is on the right and the Resi looms over the CUP to the left; the Bridge is seen in the center background. Photo from fieldcondition.com

What’s in a Name?

- Prior to 1637, the Canarsie tribe called the island Minnahannock, or “Nice to be here.”
- 1637 The Dutch bought the island from the Canarsie and began raising hogs there. The name become Varcken (Hog) Island.
- 1666 The Dutch surrendered the island to the British after the Second Anglo-Dutch War. It was then purchased by Captain John Manning and became Manning’s Island. Manning was the first Sheriff of New York. In 1673, during the Third Anglo-Dutch War, Manning surrendered New York back to the Dutch. He was court martialed for treason and cowardice and lived his life in disgrace on the island.
- 1686 Manning’s son-in-law Robert Blackwell became owner of the island, changing its name to Blackwell’s Island.
- 1828 The City of New York bought the island to house charitable institutions and a prison. In 1921, the city changed the name again, this time to Welfare Island due to the nature of the institutions built there.
- 1973 Welfare Island is renamed Roosevelt Island in honor of NY’s own President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Advertisement for the Sale of Blackwell’s Island

“For Sale, that pleasant, agreeable situation Island, known by the name of Blackwell’s Island, on the East River, about four miles from this City. It is without exception one of the most healthy situations in this state. It is remarkable for the number of fish and fowl that is caught here in the different seasons. There is on the premises two small dwelling houses, a barn, bake and fowl house, cyder mill, a large orchard containing 450 of the best grafted fruit trees, such as Newton & Golder pippins, spitsinburghs, peirmans, bow apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, etc. There are a number of the best stone quarries ready cleared to begin breaking immediately, etc.”
The Queensborough Bridge under construction, as seen from Blackwell’s Island. Click the picture for larger view. Although the Island is directly underneath it, there is no direct access to the island from the bridge. For years, the island was from the bridge using an elevator. Click image to enlarge.

In this 1962 issue of the Amazing Spiderman, our hero battles the Punisher on the Island’s areal Tramway car. Subway access began in 1989.

“Grandpa” Al Lewis was a resident of Roosevelt Island.

In 1927, Mae West served 15 days in jail on Blackwell’s Island for crude public conduct.

The 1939 film “Blackwell’s Island” is set on the island and features it’s notorious prison.
Hip Hip Array!
New solar installations see the light of day
Sarah Zemanek and Vicki Davis, Energy and Utilities

This fall, a flock of sheep from Scott Land Yard farms were happy and healthy, busily “mowing” the foliage at the Cornell Snyder Road solar farm, which they had done throughout the summer. The fields looked great! Having the sheep on the field has eliminated the need to mow or apply roundup, saving thousands of dollars in maintenance, reducing the field’s carbon footprint, and the need for herbicides, all while repurposing the land and making it useful and productive... They have done a great job at keeping up with the place and everyone was very excited at the success and health of both the sheep and the fields... In fact, Scott Land Yard farms are very hopeful to pick up more sights around the country and help more business follow in Cornell's footsteps.

IPP Utilities staff at the new 70 kw Solar array on the Human Ecology Building. A 20kw array was also installed on Klarman Hall

Holiday Setback Success!
Over 1290 metric tons of carbon dioxide were avoided during the 2015 winter break.

The Steward is looking for stories about all of the cool things IPP staff do outside of work: hobbies, volunteerism, music, schooling, anything that helps make you YOU!

Share your story today!

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FM Training Group Will Soon Be Moving
Shelby J. Clark-Shevalier, FM Training Group

In a few short weeks, the FM Training Group (FMTG) will be moving from their current temporary location in B28 Humphreys to B20 Humphreys. After undergoing some minor cosmetic changes, the new space will reinforce the training group’s mission to create an environment where learning is valued. The FMTG staff thoughtfully designed the new space to foster collaboration and interaction with colleagues across campus. FMTG offers innovative, creative training sessions for all FM Staff and they look forward to offering additional trainings in the future!

Go With the Flow
New Maximo workflow process implemented
Erin Sill and Mike Baker

On Tuesday, January 19th, a new Maximo service request (SR) workflow process was implemented. The main objectives of the new workflow were to reduce complexity and add new functionality, while continuing to support business processes internal and external to Infrastructure, Properties and Planning (IPP).

To reduce complexity, major changes included the automatic routing of SRs from a unit facility representative (UFR) to the appropriate zone/ work group in IPP, removing rules that required certain fields to match, and reducing the overall number of workflow options. The key changes related to enhancements were Maximo SR screen changes, the option to put SRs on hold, a GL account verification step, and the removal of particular email communications.

These changes allowed the overall number of steps, checks and rules in the process to be reduced significantly. Changes were also made behind the scene to make workflow easier to modify in the future.

We would like to thank all who contributed with ideas, feedback, and testing of the new process.

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Get well soon!

IPP is wishing University President Elizabeth Garrett a speedy recovery following the announcement of her recent cancer diagnosis.

Well wishers can send an email to: President@cornell.edu or address cards to 300 Day Hall.
Kudos for SAS Zone Plumber Pat Haskell

I am writing this letter as a humble note of appreciation for the quality of service provided by a member of your staff.

I've met a few people in my time who were as enthusiastic about hard work and providing quality customer service as your staff member Patrick Haskell.

I've learned so much from the example he sets and my experiences with him.

We have become accustomed to the quality of service and level of attention to detail he provides in his information and correspondence. His professional conduct in reference to consistently signing in when in our facilities and effectively communicating with myself or my staff, is exceptional.

He has proven to be very knowledgeable and capable when addressing issues and answering our questions. You should certainly feel proud of such resources, who can be trusted to bring in goodwill for the unit and the University. I appreciate the way you have trained and empowered your staff and the way they are conducting themselves and following their duty perfectly. Keep up the good work.

Once again thank you for the good service and I wish you and your unit much success.

Congratulations on your success! Excellent job!

Chris Edwards

Cornell University Division of Student and Campus Life | Campus Life Enterprises
Christopher J. Edwards| Facilities Manager SAS FM| Community Center Office RES |Dean Of Students
2015 Bartels Award Winners

Dale Houseknecht

The Bartels Awards were created by Phil and Susan Bartels nine years ago to recognize Building Care custodians that go above and beyond their position responsibilities. Since then, every winter the Facilities Management custodial groups join together to celebrate all of the great work they do throughout the year, and to learn who the new Bartels awardees are. Custodians are nominated by department managers, and the winners are selected based on their knowledge of the position, their communication and customer service skills and their reliability.

Our newest awardees are Marti Smith, Janet Lott, Michelle Clark, Gary Allen, Slavik Bindas and Penny Lockwood. Congratulations to each of you!

University Architect Gilbert Delgado Elevated to the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows

The Fellowship program was developed to elevate those architects who have made a significant contribution to architecture and society and who have achieved a standard of excellence in the profession. Election to fellowship not only recognizes the achievements of architects as individuals, but also their significant contribution to architecture and society on a national level.

Gilbert will be honored with 148 other new appointees at a ceremony at the AIA Convention in Philadelphia in May.
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The Triple Crown Winner of the SAS Zone

Employee of the Month, Quarter, and of 2015!

Wendy Turner, SAS Zone

On December 4, Larry Snyder, Plumber from the SAS Zone, was awarded the triple crown of SAS awards.

Larry is the MVP for the SAS Zone and our campus partners. Regardless of the task, Larry responds to every emergency plumbing issue in our zone during the day and across campus at night. Larry’s professionalism, positive attitude and tireless work ethic reflect all of the IPP values and he serves as an example to all of us! His commitment to Cornell University is remarkable. He takes his responsibilities very seriously and serves as the “go-to” guy whenever problems arise. In addition, Larry cares about his co-workers’ and managers’ professional development. He takes the time to teach those around him and he is extremely patient while others are learning.

Larry Snyder is our first Employee of the Year. In honor of his years of tireless service to Cornell University, this award will bear his name as the “Larry Snyder Employee of the Year Award” and will be given annually to the SAS employee who most exemplifies Larry’s lasting legacy.

Kudos Lois Hulslander

I just wanted to send a quick note to say how great it has been just this week to have Lois Hulslander on the day shift. She has a lot of energy, is very proactive, and seems to be noticing all kinds of “little” things that we would generally have to point out that need cleaning. Having people like her around will go a long way toward making the overall appearance in Sage better.

Rhonda H. Velazquez
Director, Student Activities & Special Events
Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management

Want to be a Steward contributor? Have an idea for something you’d like to see featured in the Steward?

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         Julie Parsons jh252@cornell.edu
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A look at the critters IPP staff come home to.

Send us your IPP pet photos!

Miranda is on a rotational assignment assessing warm and comfy spots as part of the Facilities Information Group. She supports Diana Bunnell-Remillard in Archiving.

Lady Sybill (L) is an apprentice Work/Life Balance Consultant working with mentor Sir Charles (R). Both report to Gabriel Goodwin in IT (when they feel like it.)

Jake is a sink plug and part-time scrubby with the Events Support Team led by Julie Parsons.

Jacob is a Treats User Experience Specialist and is currently providing valuable feedback to Kristi Cooley in IT.