Spring is my favorite time of year! It is a time of awakening, rejuvenation, and optimism. It is also the end of an academic year, and we’ll soon be celebrating the Commencement of the class of 2013. It is inspiring to see our grounds crew out every morning carefully and skillfully tending to our campus. I hope you will take some time to appreciate the natural beauty of our campus during this beautiful season.

Ivy Plus Meeting
Several of the senior directors and I attended the Ivy Plus meeting hosted by University of Pennsylvania. We met many peers, shared our experiences, and learned from each other. We discovered that Penn is using a square foot-based funding model as the basis for charging maintenance fees. We will follow up with them to learn more about their model; this will help us improve our efforts under the new budget model.

PSCC Mini Summit
The PSCC held a mini summit in April to review the action items for the 10 focus teams and to update campus colleagues on sustainability efforts across the university. The focus group breakout sessions on updating the Climate Action Plan were very productive. This event is an important component of the PSCC’s work as a leader in helping Cornell reduce our overall carbon emissions and build a community dedicated to the health of our planet.

Cornell NYC Tech
We reached two significant milestones in the development of this new campus: the Public Design Commission approved the design for the campus, and the land use committee of the City Council approved our ULURP application. The full city council is expected to formally approve the project this week. We were able to achieve these approvals in record time, which is the result of the hard work and teamwork by everyone who has been working on this project. Thanks and kudos to you all.

Surplus Auction Site
STACS, the System for Trade and Auction of Cornell Surplus, is a new reuse program that is managed by our R5 Operations Department. STACS includes both an online public auction system for surplus materials and an online system for internal reallocation of university-owned materials. STACS joins our popular reuse programs such as Dump and Run and CATS (Capital Asset Transfer System), and is committed to promoting a culture of reuse at Cornell.

United Way
The United Way change jar event yielded $48.98. The winning department is Customer Service, which raised $15.34 in loose change. They will receive a box of donuts for their efforts. Congratulations everyone and thank you all for participating.

Gates Hall
Gates Hall construction is moving forward nicely. Thanks to the architect’s creativity and vision, a simple rectangular glass box is being transformed into an extraordinary structure. One of the most frequently asked questions is whether a baseball could break the building’s glass panels. The good news is most of the glass will be covered by the metal screen paneling that creates the sculptural effects of the building. The glass itself is also designed to withstand hurricane force winds (and debris) and will be able to withstand a line drive from home plate.

Rewards and Recognition Committee
We held our most recent Employees of the Quarter celebration on April 11. The winners were Steve Devlen and Kevin Mitchell in Contract Colleges Zone Building Care and James Ramsey of the Central Zone Electric Shop. Our annual Keystone and staff celebration event will take place on June 11, 8:30am in Barton Hall. This promises to be a fun event and a great way celebrate our many successes and accomplishments. I hope you all plan to attend and enjoy a hearty breakfast with friends and colleagues.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on these and other topics; and, I thank you for all that you do for Cornell.

Kyu