Staff Spotlight

Talented, passionate, and dedicated are just some of the superlatives that describe our employees. Meet some of the staff members who make Cornell such a great place to work!

Do you know a Cornell employee we should shine the #StaffSpotlight on? Let us know!

Ramja Sritharan
Research Technician, Praveen Sethupathy Lab

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“Knowing your work impacts Cornell directly and is making a difference in the world is so rewarding.”

Penny Spoonhower
Associate Director, Regional Volunteer Giving Initiatives, AAO
"My favorite thing about working at Cornell is the vibrant community and what it has to offer. I enjoy having creative conversations with the talented group of people I work with on a daily basis in the lab that leads to cutting edge cancer research at Cornell and makes it possible for future potential cancer therapy."

Ramja was nominated for a President's Award for Employee Excellence in the Culture of Belonging category. Her nominator applauded Ramja as "one of the few people in the world able to perform ChRO-seq. But beyond the scientific, technical and intellectual achievements, what characterizes Ramja is her heart, a heart desiring the best for each person and a tolerant, peaceful and harmonious world characterized by respect... She demonstrates exceptional efforts to promote a workplace environment free from bias and discrimination, where all individuals are valued."

The Biomedical Sciences department in the College of Veterinary Medicine creates international solutions as well as clinical research for Ithaca's Campus and the New York area. Check out their page to learn more about their innovative research and team.

George Scofield

Retail Manager, Cornell Campus Store (Retired)

George recently retired after 45 years of service at the Cornell campus store. What was his favorite thing about working at Cornell? The students! Meeting all the diverse students from around the world and hearing their stories and where they came from. He worked a lot with art and architecture students, and didn't like sending a student to class if they didn't have what they needed. George says that working with students gave him energy so that he never felt himself getting older as the years went by.

It's never too early to start planning for retirement -- check out our pre-retirement planning resources.

Penny Spoonhower

Associate Director, Regional Volunteer Giving Initiatives, AAD

"Over the past 18 years I have had the good fortune to work with phenomenal colleagues and alumni volunteers who inspire me each and every day. The collective work we do reaching out to alumni, parents, and friends across the country is like no other. Knowing your work impacts Cornell directly and is making a difference in the world is so rewarding. I feel very fortunate to be a part of this great team and university."

Alumni Affairs & Development connects over 230,000 Cornell alumni who span the globe. Learn about AAD's work to continue the Big Red spirit beyond campus and advance the university's mission through engagement and philanthropy.
Stephanie Watt
Assistant Director, Class and Reunion Programs, Alumni Affairs and Development

Stephanie says one of her favorite things about Cornell “is the vibrant alumni community. It's amazing to see the energy and passion of the volunteers, and how that extends to the ideas they bring to life.” Stephanie is described as a former stand-out student employee turned stand-out staff member, who married her college sweetheart, also a Cornellian!

Did you know that 15% of Cornell staff also have a Cornell degree? Or that you can earn a Cornell degree while you work here? Learn more about our Employee Degree Program and continuing education benefits.

Chris Kelly
Graphic Designer, Alumni Affairs & Development

“15 years and feel genuinely proud to support all the amazing things CU offers the world. In addition to graphic design, I’ve enjoyed opportunities to make other meaningful contributions part of my work life, such as serving on inclusion/diversity councils, developing facilitation skills, and acting as a guide for the Let’s Meditate program (http://bit.ly/30SLPBw). I’ve also gotten to know many thoughtful, creative colleagues—many of whom I’m now happy to call friends.”

Check out Cornell's Diversity & Inclusion website to learn about programs on campus.
Gissela Mera Lourido

Assistant Director - Regional Programs Metro NY, Alumni Affairs & Development

"My favorite thing about working at Cornell is collaborating with teammates and alumni volunteers to support this amazing institution and its efforts to make the world a better place." A colleague wrote to us that Gissela is "great at her job and a pleasure to work with." Thank YOU for making Cornell a great place, Gissela!

Visit the Engaged Cornell website to see some of the ways Cornellians are working to make the world a better place.

Kristin Kurz

Events & Office Coordinator, Cornell Public Service Center

Meet Kristin Kurz, Events & Office Coordinator for Cornell's Public Service Center, and staff member who has completed over 30 courses since 2015! "My favorite thing about working at Cornell is the benefits of continued education and the opportunities to grow professionally. The programs and courses I have taken have definitely influenced my trajectory here. My qualifications have increased especially taking classes outside of my comfort zone."

Learn more about Cornell's professional development opportunities.

Terry Horgan '17

Student Services Assistant, Information Science

"People at Cornell are great to work with. Plus there are always new training opportunities to take advantage of! I also appreciate the flexible work program which allows me to travel to Boston to support Terry's Foundation for Muscular Dystrophy."

https://www.terrysfoundationformd.org