On behalf of the entire Residential Programs staff, welcome to Cornell University and Summer College!

I’d like to share some important information with you about living and learning on Cornell’s campus. We have an exciting summer planned for you, and we want you to maximize your time at Summer College. My name is Susan Riley, and I am the associate director of residential programs. My role with Summer College is to provide oversight and administration of the residential portion of the program.

We have close to fifty staff members who will be living with and supporting your students this summer. With leadership provided by our residential program director, Karli Buday, we bring on graduate students from different programs around the country. The senior staff includes four head residents, one senior head resident, and one program coordinator. They have been here more than three weeks preparing for the program. This team will be supervising the residential community advisors (RCAs), the Cornell students who will be living on the floors with you as mentors and will provide support, resource information, and guidance.

The central office is located in Jameson Hall and is home to our residential program director, along with our special projects coordinator and administrative assistant. We are available between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, to respond to your questions and inquiries. The office can be reached at 607.255.7747.

Outside of these hours, the RCAs and head residents serve on call for each residence hall. The RCA on-call phone number is posted in each residence hall and can be used for emergencies outside of office hours. For concerns or emergencies during the business day, please call or stop by our administrative office in Jameson Hall.

Our staff is here to assist you with your transition to college, address personal issues in the hall, and expose you to the many opportunities in the Cornell and Ithaca communities. Throughout the summer, our staff will communicate all official university information through Cornell e-mail. Please check your e-mail on a daily basis.

For many of you, this will be your first time living in a community setting with peers. We do have a few expectations to help make your community living experience positive and safe.

There are mandatory floor or unit meetings tonight at 9:30 p.m. At this meeting, your RCAs will provide details regarding dining, your residence hall, and our house rules. RCAs are here to help you, so please ask them questions. You will also have an opportunity to get to know other residents in your community during this meeting. This is a mandatory meeting, so please do plan on attending!

Night check begins tonight at midnight. Your RCA will tell you the location of night check at your floor meeting. Night checks are extremely important. It is our opportunity to be sure that you are safe and in the building.

In regard to tonight’s night check: Students who plan to spend tonight with their parents at a hotel must stop by our office in Jameson to fill out Overnight Stay Away from Campus permission forms before 5:00 p.m. Again, it is imperative that we know where you are!

Our conduct system is designed with your safety in mind. Our guiding document, Summer College House Rules, provides an overview of our expectations. Please be sure you’ve read this document along with the Student Code of Conduct, both of which are available on the Summer College website. It is your responsibility to know and understand this information.

Your involvement in Summer College allows you to meet students from all over the world and learn about customs and cultures different from your own. We expect that you will be respectful and sensitive to the backgrounds and rights of others. We will not tolerate messages or actions that promote hatred, intolerance, or violence. It is important that all students in our community feel safe and welcome at Cornell.

Summer College students will undoubtedly encounter and interact with people who are different from them while at Cornell, especially in the residence halls. These experiences can be new and challenging, much like the first-year college transition that they will experience in the coming years. Parents, please encourage your student to embrace opportunities for learning and growth.

Now let’s talk about the fun activities we have planned for you this summer!

We have a team of programming staff led by our program coordinator and supported by six program assistants who are current Cornell students.

Our first event is an ice cream social tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Balch courtyard.
Tomorrow afternoon, you will be participating in a campus-wide scavenger hunt that will help you learn the location and purpose of important places on campus while having fun and getting to know other Summer College students.

During your stay here, program staff will host dances, game nights, and study breaks. You might want to start thinking about what talent of yours you’d like to contribute to the Talent Show! We will also charter bus trips to state parks. RCAs will conduct smaller unit and floor programs throughout the summer to allow you to get to know each other on a more personal level. We encourage you to participate in as many clubs and programs as you can while managing your academic workload.

If you want to know what’s going on in Summer College, you can find the calendar of events in the Summer Times, which is posted on the Summer College website each week.

Before you leave, we’d like to provide you with a few final reminders and resources:

Please lock your doors at all times and carry your keys with you. If you lose your key, go to the service center or contact your RCA immediately.

Do not leave your belongings unattended, even in building study spaces and common areas. Belongings left in common spaces are not secure.

For an emergency on campus, call 607.255.1111. You can also use Cornell’s Blue Light Service (these lights are located all over campus) by lifting the receiver and pressing the button at any Blue Light location on campus. You can also dial 911 from your phone.

Lastly, students and parents: Communicate openly with our office about your concerns. We are here to assist you with your problems and to help you navigate life at Cornell. In order to do that, we need to know what’s going on!

We are excited to work with you this summer and are glad you chose Cornell Summer College! Thank you.

Susan Riley, Associate Director of Residential Programs