

The Donlon Community

We're all in this together. . .

Mary Donlon Hall is home to approximately 470 first year Cornell students. Because everyone is a first year student, you are all in the same boat! This allows you to be part of a supportive environment where students can succeed and offer you the chance to build lifelong friendships.

How quickly you meet people and make friends will depend largely on one thing – YOU! Leave your door open when you are home, say “hi” to people when you are walking down the hallway, help someone hang a poster, watch TV with people, and join the floor when they attend a Faculty Dinner. Take advantage of your RAs’ efforts to help you get to know each other. Most of all, get out there and meet others like you, looking for new friends!

How does Donlon fit into your Cornell experience?

Cornell is about much more than what happens in the classroom. You will be spending many of your free hours in Mary Donlon. The Donlon community is a place where we can come together to meet others, find time to relieve stress, and participate in events that build our social, leadership, and life skills. If you enter Cornell and Donlon with an open mind, positive attitude, and willingness to become involved, exciting things are sure to happen!

GET INVOLVED!!!

One of the best ways to feel like you are a part of the Cornell campus community is to get involved in it. Take advantage of the orientation activities and be introduced to the hundreds of clubs and organizations at Cornell. Find something that you enjoy and get active.

Also get involved in Donlon!!! As has been said a few times, get to know your neighbor and the people living in the building. Most likely, you will meet someone your first year of college who will be a life-long friend.

Beyond getting to know people, get involved planning things for your floor to do together. Your RAs will be doing this, but they always welcome help and want to offer things that you all are interested in doing.

Beyond your floor, you can become active in the Hall Council. This is a group of Donlon residents who get together to plan events for the building, listen to concerns of the residents, and actively work to create the type of community the residents of the building want. Within the first week of getting on campus, you will see more information on how to become a part of this group!

Beyond the hall, you can apply to be part of the Peer Review Board for North Campus. This is a group of students who are selected to hear judicial cases (infractions of the House Rules) of their North Campus peers. This group then decides if any policies were violated and assigns appropriate sanctions. It is an awesome and unique way to get involved.

Words to live by...

Mary Donlon Hall whole-heartily adopts Cornell’s statement on diversity and inclusiveness as reflected in “Open Doors, Open Hearts, and Open Minds.” An expectation of every resident in Donlon is to promote a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment for all who work and live here.

College is a time to challenge long held views and values. It is a time to reflect on your attitudes and opinions, a time to look at the world through a new set of experiences and a different perspective. Take advantage of the wonderful opportunity, share of yourself, listen and understand others, celebrate all.



Another Way to Get INVOLVED!

The Residential Student Congress (RSC) is an organization dedicated to promoting communication among the residential communities and encouraging leadership in their members. As a General Executive Member (GEM), you would take part in a branch of student government which places special emphasis on residential living within the context of life on a college campus. Specifically, you would represent your residential community in the Residential Student Congress, help to develop pertinent programs and initiatives, and present your community's concerns to the assembled GEMs. Come to the first Donlon Hall Council meeting to learn about how you can get involved with RSC.

Who's in our community???

There are many people who live and work in the building with you. They can be very valuable resources for

Resident Advisors

Resident Advisors (RAs), are veritable jacks-of-all-trades. They are resource and referral agents, counselors, educators, event planners, community builders, and just like you they are students. RAs are live-in student staff who have been trained in different types of counseling, various resources on campus, educational programming, and crisis management. There are 15 RAs in Mary Donlon Hall, three on each floor. They, and the entire Donlon staff, are committed to creating a safe and productive community in which to reside. They are here to help you navigate Cornell and to make Donlon a wonderful place to live. Take advantage of their knowledge and experience!

Residence Hall Director

All Residence Hall Directors (RHDs) at Cornell are full-time, year-round employees of the university. Additionally, we all have master's degrees, most in the area of College Student Personnel/Higher Education Administration, so this is really what we love to do! Day-to-day, they are here for you when you need help beyond your RAs. They supervise the RAs and oversee everything that happens in the building. They also advise the hall government and are committed to making their communities a great place for everyone to live.



Facilities Staff

Donlon has a wonderful facilities staff that maintains the common areas, bathrooms, and hallways of your floor and building. As a community we appreciate the work they do by respecting the physical space/building in which we live, and we do our part to keep the building clean. Get to know the facilities staff on your floor – they help keep our home running smoothly and looking beautiful!

Faculty Programs

There are full-time CU faculty members who have a strong interest in undergraduate students who live in the residence halls. They, and their families, spend part of their time sponsoring and attending programs for the purpose of interacting with and getting to know you all outside of the classroom. The **Faculty-in-Residence**, Marianella Casasola, lives in an apartment in Donlon.

The **Faculty Fellows** are faculty who live off campus, but will frequent the hall to hang out with you and are involved in the Donlon community. You all will not be the only ones new to the Donlon community. Alex Susskind, Gary, and are Donlon's Faculty Fellows.

Acronyms

- RA** = Resident Advisor
- RHD** = Residence Hall Director
- FIR** = Faculty in Residence
- FF** = Faculty Fellow
- DHC** = Donlon Hall Council
- RSC** = Residential Student Congress
- RP** = Campus Life Residential Programs = Department that oversees all residence halls
- RPCC** = Robert Purcell Community Center = Activity center, dining and mail location for Donlon

And of course, **YOU!!!**

Move-in Day!!!

A challenge that you will face on move in day are the streets of Ithaca. Thousands of students and their families will be driving on the narrow winding streets of campus and traffic is inevitable. The Residence Halls do not open until 8:00 AM on Friday, August 21. I understand this will be a very long awaited and exciting day for you. However, I ask that you please *do not* arrive early because you will *not* be allowed to enter the building before this time. Additionally, if you arrive a day or so early, please do not come over to try to see Donlon or your room. The staff will busily be making final preparations for you, and we won't be able to show you around.

Additionally, an arrival time has been assigned according to your last name. Students will not be allowed to enter the residential area of the campus before their scheduled arrival time, so plan accordingly. You will receive a color-coded parking pass valid only during your scheduled arrival time.

When you get to Donlon, you will unload your belongings from the "Donlon Circle" - the small half-circle parking lot in front of the building. This is where everyone moving into the building will have to park, so we ask that you unload your belongings and move your vehicle as soon as you can. To facilitate this process, there will be TONS of orientation volunteers (upperclass students who have come back to campus early to help introduce you to Cornell) helping you unload your car and move your belongings upstairs. You will be amazed at how fast it all happens. Also facilities and orientation folks have devised a numbering system to move folks in and out of the circle quickly.

When you arrive you will need to come inside Donlon and check in. This is where you will receive your keys and other important Donlon move-in materials. Because there are almost 500 people checking-in, we will have a bit of a line inside too, so while you are waiting to get a place to unload or before they have "called your number" you can come into the Donlon lobby to check-in. That way you have all your info and keys, so you can go on up to your room when you have a good unloading spot!

Special dates of interest:

- Move in Day
Friday, August 21,
2009
- First Floor Meeting
Friday, August 21,
2009 at 8:00 p.m.
- Orientation Events
also begin Friday, Au-
gust 21, 2009

This is not the last you will hear of move-in! More information will be sent to you later in the summer giving you your parking pass, times you can check-in, and maps. Again, good luck packing and travel safely. We look forward to your arrival!

Random Facts that Might be of Interest

- All residence halls are completely smoke free! And you must be 25 feet away from the building to smoke outside.
- Except for fish (10 gallon tank maximum), pets are not permitted in the halls. If you are interested in keeping certain small pets, check out the Ecology House.
- There is no overhead light in your room, so you will want to bring additional lighting for your room. However, any **j c n q i g p " n k i j v u " q x g t " 3 7 2 " y c v v u . " õ u r k f (gove? strips are OK) . " c**
- Remember to check out your orientation packet! A whole host of activities are planned to help you acclimate and support your transition to Cornell.
- We also have very good Verizon cell coverage, but sporadic coverage for other providers.
- Through Cornell's RESNET program, you can have a high-speed plug in connection to the internet and server space. Also new this year Mary Donlon will have wireless internet access.
- Most first year students do not bring a car. Everything you need is usually within walking distance. There is also bus service to all of campus and throughout the city of Ithaca, and all first-year students will be receiving a free bus pass to use this service this year.