

May 29, 2009

I want to welcome you to Ujamaa. Ujamaa's resident advisors, Rosalind Usher, Nicholas Calder, Oghomwen Shaka-Idusuyi and Felisha Pierre Louis and I look forward to meeting you in August. In case you are wondering what the word, Ujamaa means, it is a Kiswahili word that entails students living and working together to help one another excel at Cornell. There is no single word in English that adequately conveys the full extent of what this concept actually means.

You will discover that talking with other students that come from various areas of the United States and other countries is an important aspect of living in this community. You will also have the opportunity to eat dinner and participate in other programs and activities with Ujamaa's faculty fellows, Dr James Turner, Professor Abdul Nanji, Rev Sonya Hicks and Dr. N'dri Assie Lumumba. Over the course of the upcoming academic year, you can attend Ujamaa's annual welcome barbecue, visit the United Nations, join Ujamaa study groups, help organize and conduct public service programs in Ithaca and participate in various other programs and activities at Cornell.

You can also discuss various aspects of African, Caribbean and African American history and other important issues during Ujamaa's Sunday evening Unity Hour programs. Sometimes you may want to just eat dinner and watch a movie or play board games with other Ujamaa residents and other students on a Friday or Saturday evening. All these activities represent just some of the things that you can do at Cornell during the upcoming academic year. They each encompass an important aspect of living in a vibrant and cohesive community that can enrich your life as a student at Cornell.

Ujamaa's staff will hold a building orientation meeting on Friday evening on August 21<sup>st</sup>. It will take place in Ujamaa's Main Lounge. Our first Unity Hour will occur on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. It will begin at 8:30 PM in the same location. Please do not hesitate to stop by my office in room 106 or talk with one of Ujamaa's resident advisors if you have any questions about Cornell or the broader Ithaca community when you arrive in August. I hope that you have a pleasant summer.

Sincerely,

Ken Glover

Residence Hall Director

Ujamaa Residential College