Desiree Gentile bound for Cornell Vet School

by Kelsey Long (Class of 2009)

Desiree Gentile, a Senior in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Akwe:kon Community Assistant, was recently accepted into Cornell’s prestigious College of Veterinary Medicine. As an Animal Science major in CALS, she is relieved that her hard work has paid off and that she will attend vet school here at Cornell and still be able to be active in Akwe:kon and AIP.

Ever since she was a young girl she has wanted to become a veterinarian. She began gaining work experience in high school where she worked with a mobile dairy veterinarian as well as a small animal clinic.

While at Cornell, she has lived on the Cornell Dairy Farm and has done research in dairy cattle nutrition. The research she has done combined herd health practices with hard science, has been the most beneficial to her because in vet school Desiree plans to focus on production animal medicine, specializing in dairy cattle. She likes working in production animal medicine because it encompasses both human and animal

Continued on page 5

Volunteers in American Indian Program tutor Lafayette high schoolers, with college as goal

By Daniel Aloi
(excerpted from the Cornell Chronicle)

Students, staff and faculty in Cornell’s American Indian Program (AIP) are helping high school students in LaFayette Central Schools to succeed, with a weekly tutoring program that began this semester. The goals are to establish relationships as mentors to the younger Native American students and help open the way for them to go on to college.

“We wanted people from AIP, or affiliated with the program, so [the LaFayette students] have a feeling of connection. It’s good for them to have people to identify with,” says Kakwireiosta Hall, residence hall director of Akwe:kon, a Cornell residence and community center that celebrates American Indian heritage.

The tutoring program is voluntary for LaFayette students in grades 9-12 and is offered for two hours on

Continued on page 3
Faculty and Staff Update

Angela Gonzales traveled to Washington DC, January 17-18, to attend a project curatorial meeting at the National Museum of the American Indian. Angela is part of the core curatorial team helping to organize the exhibition, "Indivisible: African-Native Lives in the Americas," a collaborative effort with the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services (SITES). The photo/text (banner) exhibition, scheduled to open at NMAI in November 2008, contextualizes and interrogates the interdependent dynamics of race, community, culture, and creativity and addresses the human desires of being and belonging that lie at the core of the many historical and contemporary stories that make up the exhibit.

Angela Gonzales has been invited to participate in the Second Joint Indigenous Summer Research Institute in Banff, Alberta. The institute, funded by the NIH Fogarty International Center and the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities is a collaborative effort by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Indian Health Service, National Indian Health Board, National Congress of American Indians Policy Research Center and the National Council of Urban Indian Health. The Summer Institute is part of a three year leadership training program designed to develop a thorough understanding of the design and implementation of community based participatory research projects that address social determinants of health in Indigenous populations.

On February 14th, as a speaker in the Soup & Hope series in Cornell’s Sage Chapel, Carol Kalafatic (AIP Associate Director) shared thoughts from her work in indigenous peoples’ movements, sustainable development and youth media. The series is presented in anticipation of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative lecture, and is offered to the Cornell community as an opportunity to share a meal and hear from people who work for lasting social change. The series was inspired by the work of civil rights veterans, Vincent and Rosemarie Freeney Harding, who in 1997 founded Veterans of Hope, which draws together the life-stories of people who are veterans of struggles for freedom and justice throughout the world. Dr. Vincent Harding delivered the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative lecture at Sage Chapel on February 19th.

The co-sponsors of Soup & Hope were Cornell Dining, Cornell United Religious Work, the CRESP Center for Transformative Action, The University Wellness Program, Division of Human Resources, Employee Assembly and Gannett Health Services.

More information can be found at http://www.curw.cornell.edu/soupandhopemoreinfo.html
**Volunteers in American Indian Program**

*Continued from page 1*

Wednesday afternoons after school. Many of those who use it don't sign up, they just show up. They take advantage of the late-afternoon program as a structured study and homework time, either individually or together.

“If one student gets it, they will help the others,” says volunteer tutor Aviva Horowitz ’10, a Cayuga majoring in development sociology and minoring in American Indian studies.

“I come here to get my homework done -- I usually don’t do it at home,” says LaFayette 10th-grader Calvin Thomas of Nedrow, who was reading his English class assignment, the Vietnam memoir “If I Die in a Combat Zone” by Tim O’Brien, at a recent Wednesday session.

The LaFayette school district has about a 23 percent Native enrollment, drawing from the nearby Onondaga Nation.

“It’s been successful in the eyes of many, because the teachers have been asking about it, and they’re liking the fact that the students have somewhere to go,” says Danielle Rourke, Native American liaison and school counselor at the high school. “It’s a large Native population here, so we’re always looking for avenues for our kids.

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**Hotel schools are in with inn crowd**

*by Gary Stoller, USA TODAY*

ITHACA, N.Y. — In a classroom on a hill next to New York’s Cayuga Lake, more than 50 Cornell University hotel management students take notes as their instructor explains how to triple-sheet beds, provide turn-down service and schedule housekeepers...

The complete article can be found online at http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/travel/2008-01-07-hotel-schools_n.htm?loc=Interstitialskip

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*By Narayan Mahon for USA TODAY*

Margit Chamberlain, a freshman at Cornell’s School of Hotel Administration, works at the Taverna Banfi Restaurant in the school-run Statler Hotel.
Akwe:kon’s Most Recent Activities

by Cecily Blackwater (Class of 2010)

As always, the Akwe:kon Program house strives to create an educational and inclusive community environment. For the spring semester, Akwe:kon kicked off with the ongoing Discussion Night Tuesday! Every other Tuesday at 7:30PM, Akwe:kon hosts a discussion night, in which students volunteer to present topics ranging from any controversial questions existing within the Native Community. The first discussion took place on January 29, where Akwe:kon resident, Jake Swamp, led the discussion about Native representation in video games. Professor Eric Cheyfitz (from the English Department) led the discussion night on February 12, 2008.

On January 30, 2008 a second on-going program, the Cornell-Lafayette High School Tutoring Program, kicked off to a successful spring semester with five volunteers. Since the beginning of the fall semester students, staff and faculty from Cornell’s American Indian Program (AIP) have been helping high school students in Lafayette Central Schools to succeed with a weekly tutoring program. Every Wednesday Native students in grades 9-12 take advantage of the free two-hour tutoring session to either study and do homework, or receive help from students/faculty/staff from Cornell.

The tutoring program has received positive feedback since its debut. While it occurs in an already welcoming atmosphere, snacks and beverages are provided to keep the program more relaxed. The tutoring program is organized to engage high school students in a positive atmosphere, and ultimately connect them with someone who can help them become interested in achieving their goals while maintaining an interest in college.

The program was successful last semester and strives to do the same for the spring! If interested in volunteering, feel free to contact Kakwireiosta Hall at kh384@cornell.edu

This year’s Powwow Committee has made amazing strides in preparation for Cornell’s 9th Annual Powwow and Smokedance. In comparison to last years last-minute scramble to get the Powwow up and running, this year’s planning started well in advance, which has allowed us to make better decisions regarding funding, vending, advertising and entertainment. Head Staff members have recently been finalized and entertainment following the Powwow has been booked. This year’s Powwow will feature only one Grand Entry, starting at noon, end much earlier than last year’s, and finish with a live performance (exciting details to be released soon!).

All in all, the details were squared away months before the Powwow. Now it’s only a matter of spreading the word throughout our Cornell community, as well as to nearby Native communities. So save the date! Saturday, April 12th in Barton Hall.

We’d like to give an early thanks to the American Indian Program for their support in making the planning and organizing process that much easier!

Powwow Committee Chair,
Fred Gonzales
2008 AISES Leadership Conference

By Aviva Horowitz (Class of 2010)

On Thursday, February 21st, Kyle Coulon and I traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico for the 2008 AISES Leadership Conference. Former Cornell student Nicole Wheeler picked us up from the airport and dropped us off at the Marriott hotel, which is where we were staying as well as where the conference took place.

Thursday night we had an “icebreaker” along with the opening ceremony. Then on Friday the seminars began, and continued through Saturday. All of the seminars were extremely helpful and gave me new insights. Some of my favorites included: Personal Financial Management, Learning to Coach and Mentor Others, and Leadership Qualities Every Student Will Want. All the speakers were very knowledgeable and passionate, and they taught me a lot. One of the funniest moments of the long weekend was the Improv Night on Friday. The Women’s Talking Circle was incredibly powerful, and it brought the women even closer.

This conference was one of the best times I have had as a Cornell student, and I am very grateful for meeting all the amazing students that I met. This conference was different from the National one in that it was much more focused and small, and allowed all the students to meet, interact, and get to know each other. I very much look forward to future AISES Conferences and events!

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Desiree Gentile

Continued from page 1

health through issues of food safety. After Vet School, she would like to either go into private practice or do research.

For the last three years, Desiree has been a vital member of the Akwe:kon and AIP community as a house-member in her sophomore year and a CA in her junior and senior years. Akwe:kon has provided her with a very supportive and relaxing environment, and she is grateful for all of the friends she has made and all of the help she has received from many staff members throughout her undergraduate career.
Susan Taffe to Contribute to Lunaape Language Revitalization

Susan Taffe is a Ph. D. candidate in Musicology focusing in Ethnomusicology while doing a minor in American Indian studies. As a step in her journey toward proficiency in the Lenape (Delaware) language, Susan attended a Lenape language immersion camp in Muncy, Ontario, Canada during the summer of 2007 through the Lunaapeexsuwaakan Sheeshkoolhaalawees Akehkiimeeweekaan (The Lunaape Language Teacher’s Academy). Through the same Academy, she is currently taking an independent study, which is being overseen by Professor Audra Simpson, the AIP representative on Susan’s graduate committee. The independent study course was designed to specifically suit Susan’s needs.

“One of the requirements of my Ph. D. is that I pass proficiency tests in two ‘foreign’ languages,” Susan said. “I have passed the first test in German. The music department has approved my study of Lenape (Muncey dialect) for my second language exam. As an American Indian studies scholar, I also believe it is important for me to have proficiency in a Native language, and Lenape will be an important research language for me to have. When considering Lenape people, revitalization of the language is an ongoing effort and this is something that I would like to be a part of. Beyond academic reasons, on a personal level as someone of Lenape descent, I have always felt as though learning Lenape was important to my personal growth. Time is of the essence in learning the Lenape language as it is currently spoken by only a handful of individuals. The Lunaapeexsuwaakan Sheeshkoolhaalawees Akehkiimeeweekaan is the only school of its kind.”

The Lunaapeexsuwaakan Sheeshkoolhaalawees Akehkiimeeweekaan was founded through a merging of the shared vision and the extensive efforts in language research, study and instruction of Glen Jacobs and Bruce Stonefish (Delaware Nation, Ontario, Canada). They aim to revitalize the Lunaape language through the education of highly-motivated and hard-working individuals to become Lunaape language workers, researchers, instructors and speakers. And they hope that more people would take on these revitalization efforts.
The American Indian Program at Cornell University announces the availability of **TWO** scholarships for American Indian students to attend a three-credit archaeological field school that will be offered through Cornell’s Summer Session (July 8–August 5, 2008). The scholarship fully covers tuition and dormitory lodging expenses during the course, as well as providing an allowance for food and/or transportation.

Students will enroll in American Indian Studies/Anthropology/Archaeology 2220, **Field Course in Iroquois Archaeology**, for three units of academic credit; no prior training in archaeological methods is required. Taught by Assistant Professor Kurt Jordan, the class offers hands-on training in archaeological field methods through survey and excavation at Pocohontas Iroquois (Haudenosaunee) sites in New York’s Finger Lakes region. The goals of the project and the field methods to be used during class excavations have been developed in consultation with representatives of the Haudenosaunee community.

The majority of class time will be spent engaged in supervised fieldwork at the 1688-1715 Seneca White Springs site, located near Geneva, New York. Fieldwork will be supplemented by lectures introducing archaeological methods and Haudenosaunee history and material culture. Excavations will gather data on residential architecture and domestic activities. Students will master field procedures, record-keeping, and interpretation of field data; study Haudenosaunee material culture; and write a short research paper (7–10 pages) using data generated by the project. The class meets from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Mondays through Fridays from July 8th through August 1st; the final two days of the session will be used to complete the term paper. Most class time will be spent off-campus at archaeological sites; transportation between the Cornell campus and sites will be in University-owned or rented vehicles arranged by the instructor. Students will engage in laboratory work at Cornell on days when the weather does not permit excavation.

There is the possibility of paid employment at Cornell after successful completion of the Field Class.

For additional information about the course or for copies of application materials, please contact Kurt Jordan at kj21@cornell.edu or (607) 255-3109. The application deadline is **Monday, June 9th, 2008**. We particularly encourage Cornell and/or Haudenosaunee students to apply.
Scholarships/Internships


Professional Development and Support: Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP): see www.agep.us (http://www.agep.us/)

For Financial Support in New Interdisciplinary PHD Programs Graduate School IGERT Opportunities: www.igert.org (http://www.igert.org/)

The Wellstone Fellowship for Social Justice: http://www.familiesusa.org/about/wellstone-fellowship-about.html

CBS News Internship Program
For More Information: Katie Curcio, Internship Coordinator (ph) 212.975.2114

Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Four Directions Summer Research Program. For More Information: Elena Muench (e) info@fdsrp.org (ph) 617.525.7644 (url) http://www.fdsrp.org

University at Colorado- Underrepresented Minority Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program. For More Information: Melissa Adams (ph) 303.724.3286 (url) http://www.fredonia.edu/na/if_uc-hsc.asp

INSTITUTE FOR RECRUITMENT OF TEACHERS For further information please visit the IRT webpage, http://www.andover.edu/irt and/or contact Leislie Godo-Solo, Associate Director at 978-749-4113. E-mail address: lgodosolo@andover.edu

The Office of Minority Health Research Coordination (OMHRC) of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), NIH Undergraduate Summer Internship Program (SIP). Please visit the STEP-UP website http://stepup.niddk.nih.gov/ to obtain detail information and access to the on-line application.

IIPP (Institute for International Public Policy) Fellowship Program. See www.uncfsp.org/iipp to apply online.

Conservation Science Internship Program. For more information please visit: http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/Science_Intern_Workspace/2008_TNC_CSIP_Intern_App_Materials

Upcoming Events

**MARCH**

07 Last day to drop classes
08 AISES mini-golf/ice skating
11 Faculty Fellows 5:30pm Discussion Night 7:30pm
12 Tutoring 2:30pm-6:30pm
15-23 SPRING BREAK
25 House Meeting 7:30pm
26 Tutoring 2:30pm-6:30pm
27 AISES Meeting
28-30 Brain Tanning Workshop

**APRIL**

01 Faculty Fellows 5:30pm Discussion Night 7:30pm
02 Tutoring 2:30pm-6:30pm

08 Faculty Fellows 5:30pm
    Cornell/Syracuse Lax 7:00pm
    Tutoring 2:30pm-6:30pm
10-12 Diversity Hosting Weekend
    Social Dance (Appel)
11 SPRING BREAK
11-12 AISES Regional Conference
    Powwow
12 AISES Meeting
15• Faculty Fellows 5:30pm
    Discussion Night 7:30pm
16• Faculty Fellows 5:30pm
    Fall Financial Aid Apps Due Awards Ceremony
18• Fall Financial Aid Apps Due Awards Ceremony
19• Faculty Fellows 5:30pm
    Discussion Night 7:30pm
30• Tutoring 2:30pm-6:30pm

**MAY**

02 Slope Day
04• Planting Celebration/BBQ
06• House Meeting 7:30pm
07• Tutoring 2:30pm-6:30pm
13• Potluck or Midnight Breakfast
15• Faculty Fellows 5:30pm
18-24 Senior Week
24 Convocation
25 Commencement

**Location Guide**

- To Be Announced
- Robert Purcell
- Akwe:kon
- Schoellkopf Field
- Appel commons
- Ecology House
- Ecology House