Haudenosaunee Social and Welcome

On April 14th, new Akwe:kon Residence Hall Director, Ansley Jemison (Seneca), was welcomed by Native American Students at Cornell (NASAC), the American Indian Program (AIP), and the Indigenous Graduate Students Association (IGSA) at Cornell with a traditional Haudenosaunee Social Dance. Attendees were treated to a catered dinner followed by traditional Haudenosaunee social dances which invite audience participation. Residence Hall Director Jemison MC’ed the event, explaining the purposes of the dances and the instruments used, and inviting both Native and non-Native attendees to participate. NASAC held a fundraising cake walk during the event. Solon Spruce (Cattaraugus Seneca) and the gang, a local Native singing society, set the mood for the evening with traditional Haudenosaunee social dances. A wide range of attendees participated in the evening’s festivities. Cornell Native and non-Native students, staff and faculty were in attendance, as well as other City of Ithaca community members and members from surrounding Native communities. Distinguished guests

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AIP student & faculty member visit China over Winter Break

By Andrea Carter and Prof. Jane Mt. Pleasant

SMART program group and hosts at Qimei Organic Farm

During winter break two members of the AIP community, Andrea Carter (CALS ’12) and Jane Mt. Pleasant (Associate Professor, Horticulture and AIP), spent two weeks in China looking at soil management and

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crop production issues on small farms that sell their produce to the Qimei Organic Vegetable Company in Hebei Province. We were members of one of the fourteen SMART (Student Multidisciplinary Applied Research Teams) program groups that spread across the globe in January sponsored by CIIFAD (Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture, and Development).

Each team was invited by a client – a government agency, business, or non-governmental organization – to address problems which Cornell students and faculty have some expertise to help address. While other teams escaped Ithaca’s blustery cold weather for tropical locales, including South Africa, Thailand, Kenya, Ghana, Indonesia, and Honduras, our team bundled up in heavy coats and boots to face winter conditions in northern China.

Hebei Qimei Agriculture Science and Technology Co., Ltd., was established in 1999 due to the entrepreneurial efforts of CEO and co-founder Mrs. Yuqi Zhao. Inspired by the growing popularity of the organic food industry in the west, as well as a personal concern for safe and healthy food, Mrs. Zhao has worked hard to strengthen China’s organic agricultural industry.

Mrs. Zhao’s business ethic is also guided by a concern for community development and women’s rights, as showcased in her support for rural farmers and employment of female staff. Encouraged by the growing domestic as well as international demand for organic produce and food products, Qimei is set to enter its next stage of growth. The company currently has contracts (both individually and cooperatively by villages) with 3,000 farmers in 11 villages and plans to expand this number in the years to come. To meet market demand Qimei recognizes farmers will need to maintain productive and healthy land and thus was interested in means of promoting soil health so as to ensure the continued success of the company. Though the larger production model of Qimei perhaps does not fit with the idealized American conception of organic agriculture, Qimei’s support of rural farmers as well as sense of land stewardship represents a very promising model for China.

We were the second SMART team to be hosted by the Qimei Organic Vegetable Company, located in Hebei Province about five hours south of Beijing. The first group visited in January 2011 to analyze marketing issues and make suggestions on how Qimei might expand their domestic organic vegetable market. The faculty member who led that team, Robin Bellinder, a weed scientist in the Horticulture Department, noted multiple soil management issues on farms they visited during their stay and recommended that Qimei consider hosting a second team that would look specifically at soil health. Our team was composed of four students (three CALS seniors and one graduate student in Crop and Soil Sciences) with expertise in organic vegetable production, soil science, and international agriculture and development, and Professor Mt.Pleasant, a soil scientist in the Horticulture Department. During our trip we
visited multiple farm sites, interviewed farmers, and finally presented recommendations to Qimei staff regarding means of improving soil health such as crop rotations and winter cover cropping.

It was an eye-opening experience, from our arrival at the stunning Beijing International Airport, to our visits to small farms in Hebei Province. China is certainly a country of contrasts, in terms of the enormous transformations that have occurred in its urban areas in the last 10 years, but also within its agricultural sector. Chinese farmers today apply more fertilizer per acre than any country in the world, but simultaneously, globally they have the second largest acreage in organic production. Chinese agriculture upends our assumptions about who Chinese farmers are and where they fit within the global economy. Such paradox is confounded by the country’s size. Even though organic agriculture is a tiny portion of Chinese agriculture, the sheer size of the country and its population means that even small scale action often has enormous impacts across the world.

Our trip allowed us to consider China from multiple perspectives. As agricultural specialists we were, of course, fascinated by how they produce crops, and the effects of the industrialization of Chinese agriculture (intensive fertilization, improved varieties, synthetic pesticides, and mechanization) on the environment. The Chinese are experiencing many of the same negative impacts of intensive agricultural production that have occurred in the United States, including: soil erosion, contamination of ground and surface waters with agricultural chemicals, increased pest pressure, and water table depletion. Chinese consumers however primarily purchase organic food because they perceive it as safer than conventionally produced crops. In the past few years many highly publicized incidents of contaminated food have caused serious illness and death. Although some sectors of the population are worried about the effects of agriculture on the environment, organic production in China is seen first as a food safety issue, in contrast to the US, where the organic agriculture is primarily a response to environmental concerns.

As members of Cornell’s American Indian community, we were also interested in indigenous and marginalized populations within China. Mandarin speakers from a relatively homogenous population dominate most political and economic spheres in China, but issues of power related to indigeneity and ethnic, cultural, religious, and national identities surfaced multiple times. At the end of our trip we visited Tiananmen Square in Beijing with a tourist guide who explained that Tibetan nationalists were behind the demonstrations, protests, and bloodshed in 1989. In conversation, our Chinese hosts always spoke of “Taiwan Province,” as though it was no different than any other province in the country. And we discussed and observed the multiple obstacles that even powerful women confront in business and politics through the involvement of Mrs. Zhou (owner of the Qimei Organic Vegetable Company) with the Women’s Association of Hebei.

Overall, the trip was an extremely rewarding experience for both faculty and students, and provided great insight into the bourgeoning organic agriculture sector of China. Additionally, the trip facilitated an exchange of knowledge with our Chinese hosts that prompted cultural understanding and sincere respect. On a trip to Beijing Agricultural University, Prof. Mt. Pleasant presented her work on Iroquois agricultural practices to agronomy students and professors, proudly spreading the word on the impressive agricultural capabilities and knowledge of North America’s indigenous peoples. Andrea, a graduating senior, similarly hopes to promote traditional agricultural practices, and this trip reinforced her belief in the potential and viability of organic production systems.
Kianga Lucas participates in NCAIS Spring Workshop

In March, Kianga Lucas, PhD student in Anthropology, participated in the Newberry Consortium in American Indian Studies (NCAIS) Spring Workshop entitled “The Museum as Archive in American Indian Studies” at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University. The workshop highlighted museums as research sites and examined the value of historic objects for scholars working in American Indian Studies and related disciplines. Over the course of three days, Lucas along with fifteen graduate students from peer universities,
discussed assigned readings on museum theory and methodology, toured the Peabody’s collections and exhibitions, met with museum staff, and conducted and presented research on an object from the museum’s collection. Participants were also encouraged to utilize the museum’s extensive archival material along with publications available at the Tozzer Library of Anthropology. The workshop was hosted by Castle McLaughlin, PhD, Associate Curator of North American Ethnography at the Peabody and Scott Manning Stevens, PhD, Director of the D’Arcy McNickle Center at the Newberry.

Ashley Smith awarded with Newberry participation

The American Indian Program at Cornell University is pleased to announce that Ms. Ashley Smith, a graduate student in Anthropology, will represent Cornell at the 2012 Newberry Library Consortium on American Indian Studies’ Summer Institute in Chicago, from 16 July to 10 August 2012. The Institute, hosted by Professors Jean M. O’Brien (University of Minnesota) and Coll Thrush (University of British Columbia) has as its theme, “Territory, Commemoration, and Monument: Indigenous and Settler Histories of Place and Power”. This three-week seminar for graduate students in Indigenous studies will focus on questions of memory, history, and place-making, and in particular on the ways in which land and power are negotiated through commemorations, monuments, historical narratives, government policies, and other means by both Indigenous and settler peoples. How have Indigenous communities maintained connections to territory despite the pressures of colonialism, including the construction of settler narratives of belonging (e.g. “pioneer heritage” and “local history”) and the embodied practices of dispossession and cultural genocide? Foregrounding ongoing issues of colonialism and with an emphasis on Indigenous experience and agency, we will explore debates surrounding the production of public memory and historical landscapes by looking both at broad patterns throughout North America (and perhaps beyond) and at specific sites such as Little Bighorn National Park in Montana, the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver, and a Cherokee plantation in Georgia.

As an Institute participant, Ms. Smith will have the opportunity to conduct research in the Newberry’s world-class holdings related to her dissertation work on Wabanaki landscapes and historical memory in New England and to present her scholarship in the Consortium’s annual Graduate Student Conference.

Please join us in congratulating Ashley Smith on her accomplishment!

Mia McKie engages with indigenous students in Nicaragua

Mia McKie (Tuscarora), Development Sociology and American Indian studies minor (CALS ’13) in Siuna, Nicaragua on March 22, 2012

Mia traveled to Siuna, Nicaragua with the Cornell chapter of Bridges to Community over her spring break, where she had the opportunity to meet with other indigenous students studying at Universidad URACCAN (University of the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua). The students pictured with Mia come from various Mayagna and Miskito communities along the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. During their interaction Mia and the URACCAN students discussed the
Roxyana Orellana travels to El Salvador

This year I was fortunate enough to be able to travel to El Salvador as part of a sister community delegation from Cayuga County that goes every year to a small rural town called San Pedro. San Pedro is located about 4 hours away from the capital of San Salvador and consists of mostly subsistence farmers.

Two little girls from San Pedro, Luciana Emily and Nelly Stephanie

During our community service and education visit, we checked up on several programs that are supported by the community in Cayuga County, such as San Pedro’s scholarship program and a micro-credit program. We also met with the women in the community who make bags and hammocks that are sold in the United States and generate profits that are returned to the community members to supplement their livelihoods. Community members gave us a brief update on how their crop harvests were, and the status of the funds used for loans. I was able to talk with the people in the community about their day to day experiences as well as their past involvement in the civil war, which lasted 12 years and heavily impacted them. I also had the opportunity to briefly discuss indigeneity within the community, as well as ask them about how they ethically define themselves.

This trip was an amazing opportunity for me to learn more about my own culture as well as the cultures of the people of San Pedro. I am extremely grateful to the American Indian Program for helping me in being able to go to El Salvador through their Undergraduate Enrichment Fund, and to Carol Kalafatic for putting me in touch with the people of Cayuga County.
On March 27th and 28th, AIP hosted students from the SUNY Canton Upward Bound program during their visit to the Cornell University campus. Akwe:kon RHD Ansley Jemison and AIP Student Development Specialist, Kathy Halbig welcomed the six students and two chaperones to Akwe:kon, where current Akwe:kon residents graciously hosted the students overnight.

The students’ itinerary included a full day of activities. Ansley and Kathy shared information about AIP and Akwe:kon, provided information on selecting the right college, gave tips and strategies for applying, and responded to the students’ questions. Some of students attended a Business class in CALS, while others listened to a presentation about the seven undergraduate colleges. The students then had lunch with AIP undergraduates and were able to sit in on a presentation from Cornell’s Career Services, about internship and career development opportunities.

The students also met with William Horning, Associate Director of the Office of Academic and Diversity Initiatives. The day ended with a trip to the Campus Store and a walking tour of the campus.
Akwe:kon
Tailgate launches Cornell-Syracuse relationship and honors alumnus

On April 10th the first annual Akwe:kon Tailgate was a tremendous success as the American Indian Program students, faculty and staff hosted the Syracuse University Haudenosaunee Promise Scholarship students. At the event we also hosted Class of 1956 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences graduate and former Cornell lacrosse great, Daniel Jemison. Jemison was presented with a gift from the American Indian Program – a traditional Great Lakes style wooden lacrosse stick crafted by Onondaga traditional stick maker, Alfie Jacques. Food, fun and friendly competition was shared between both groups of Native students as the Akwe:kon “All of Us” perpetual plaque was introduced. The concept of the plaque is to promote on-going friendly competition between the two student organizations. Each year the group from the university that wins in Cornell-Syracuse lacrosse will be awarded the plaque, and with that “bragging rights” until the next competition. Fortunately, this year the Big Red prevailed, 12-6, and the plaque will be staying home!
Maliseet plant specialist visits AIP community

Rita Pope (Mohawk), a Human Resources representative of Corning Glass Incorporated reached out to the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) students and invited them for a visit to Corning Glass Inc., a world leader in glass and ceramics manufacturing and engineering services. On February 28th, four students took advantage of this opportunity. The students were treated to a grand tour of the laboratories where the students were able to speak with the researchers and engineers about their work. Several Native American staff members met the students throughout the tour, and later in the day met the students for lunch. The director of Human Resources (a Cornell alumnus) also joined the students for lunch and offered valuable information about the benefits of working at Corning. It was a great opportunity to ask questions about internship and job possibilities, and to be given a glimpse into the future of fiber optics and glass.

Rocky Bear, a Maliseet elder from Tobique First Nation in New Brunswick, visited campus April 17th and 18th. He is a knowledgeable medicine gatherer and is very concerned about the contamination of culturally important plants. He is also committed to passing down knowledge about medicinal plants to younger generations. In addition, he is interested in issues of Native higher education and has worked at the Native Student Center at the University of Maine, Presque Isle. He is currently working with Natural Resources/AIS grad student Michelle Baumflek on a project involving plant species that are culturally important to Maliseet and Mi'kmaq communities.

During his visit, Rocky Bear enjoyed visiting the campus gardens, meeting with students, learning about their experiences, and sharing some of his own. He invited AIP community members to participate in a Tuesday evening talking circle at Akwe:kon, which was attended by undergraduate and graduate students, and staff.

AISES invited to Corning Incorporated

Soup Day Presentation Series

This semester the weekly AIP Soup Day included a series of presenters from various campus units who shared information about the resources they offer to students.

Our first presenter was Helen Yunis (Reading Lab Coordinator – hay8@cornell.edu) from the Learning Strategies Center. Helen gave a presentation about speed reading and reading more efficiently. The information was well received and Helen invites students to visit her at CCC.

Our second presenter was Corinna Lewis...
(Outreach Coordinator for Cornell Abroad ccl38@cornell.edu). Corinna provided information about scholarships and internships abroad. For more information students are encouraged to visit Cornell Abroad on 2nd floor of Caldwell Hall.

We were also delighted to have Christa Downey (Director of A&S Career Services, http://www.career.cornell.edu/), talk about internships and job opportunities. She shared information about websites that were packed with opportunities for internships and employment. Students are welcome to visit the career services center in their respective colleges or to go to the main office in Barnes Hall.

Our next presenter was Michael Chen (Study Skills Coordinator, msc7@cornell.edu). Mike has a breadth of tips and strategies for testing, note-taking, and strengthening study skills. One of his helpful tips resonated with students: it’s more effective to spread out the work of studying for an exam across smaller chunks of time (e.g., 10-15 minute increments) versus cramming within one long stretch of time.

The following week Lance Heidig, a Cornell University Reference and Instruction Librarian, shared information about the Huntington Free Library Native American Collection – one of largest in the world, with over 40,000 volumes on the archaeology, ethnology and history of Native American peoples from colonial times to the present. The AIP played a significant role in Cornell’s acquisition of the collection, which placed Cornell among the top three research libraries for American Indian studies in North America, the others being the Newberry Library and the Library of Congress.

AIP and Cayuga Tutoring Collaboration

On April 4th the Cayuga Nation Education Committee and the AIP began a collaboration to provide Cayuga junior high school and high school students in Seneca Falls with tutoring support. One afternoon per week students affiliated with AIP go to Seneca Falls, where – with the supervision of a member of the Education Committee and an AIP staff member – they give the younger students advice about their homework assignments and discuss their academic interests with them. They also serve as role models and sources of information about preparing for higher education.

Indigenous Languages focus of SULA 7

Semantics of Under-Represented Languages in the Americas (SULA) 7 will be held at Cornell University, May 4-6, 2012. The goal of the conference is to bring together researchers working on languages or dialects spoken in the Americas which do not have an established tradition of work in formal semantics. Primarily, the conference focuses on indigenous languages of the Americas, but is also open to work on other under-studied languages spoken in the Americas, such as ASL and AAE.

At SULA 7, the invited speakers work on a wide range of indigenous languages: Kalaallisut (West Greenlandic, Eskimo-Aleut), Navajo (Athapaskan), Kaqchikel (Mayan), Cheyenne (Plains Algonquian), and Blackfoot (Plains Algonquian). Submitted papers also represent a large, diverse group of languages, including talks on Guarani, Inuktitut, Karitiana, Kutenax, Mapudungun, Nez Perce, Nsyilx cen, Saanich, Tlingit, and many more.

For more information, please see the conference website at:

http://conf.ling.cornell.edu/SULA7/index.html
Congratulations 2012 Graduates!

Undergraduate Students

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- Storm Ainsley
- Amanda Armstrong
- Andrea Carter
- Grant Daffin
- Harriosn Ishida
- Katelin Jackson
- Joshua Croton-Macdonald
- Cortni McGregor
- Ellie McWhirter
- Brian Meehan
- Leah Salgado
- Ashley Wilcox

Jeannette Fox
Christina Harrington
Kayleigh Kirk
Bethany Nicols
Dale Pescatore
Alyssa Segal
Jennifer Silvia
Jaclyn Terran
Ivette Villalba

College of Architecture and Art Planning
- Taylor Chew
- Kachine Moore

College of Arts and Sciences
- Eric Bastine

College of Engineering
- Christopher Peratrovich
- Justin Steimle

College of Hotel Administration
- Aria Dorsey
- Kelley Lloyd
- Kolton Reynolds

College of Human Ecology
- Ariel Noonan

Graduate/Professional Students

Los Allen - Law, JD
Grace Gemmell - German Studies, PhD
Donald Hicks - Business Administration, MBA
Jennifer Holsey - Law, JD
Christina Homrichhouse - ILR, Masters
Scott Perez - Natural Resources, PhD
Josiah Staples - Law, JD
Lesley Turnbull - Anthropology, PhD
Shawn Varughese - Health Administration, Masters
Mary Beth Williams - Law, JD
AIP presents indigenous food systems panel

On March 29th in the AD White House the AIP presented a panel on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems and Well-being. The panel gave the Cornell community a chance to hear from and engage with speakers from a broad range of expertise on a topic that spans agriculture and life sciences, technologies, social sciences and the humanities. The speakers were: Prof. Jane Mt. Pleasant (Tuscarora), from Cornell’s Horticulture Department and the AIP; Namgyal Tsepak, a first-year PhD student in Cornell’s Anthropology Department and AIS minor who grew up in a nomadic family in eastern Tibet, and whose family and people raised yaks and sheep as way of life; and Rosalie Little Thunder (Sicangu Lakota) an internationally-known educator at Black Hills State University and a long-time community and environmental activist/organizer protecting the buffalo that roam through Yellowstone National Park.

Overflowing into adjoining rooms, the large audience was made up of students, faculty, and staff from CALS (including IARD), Arts & Sciences, and Human Ecology, and also from Ithaca College, an area high school, and the Ithaca community.

Upcoming Events

**MAY**

**May 4-6**  
Conference: Semantics of Under-Represented Languages in the Americas (SULA) 7  
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Friday session  
Clark Hall 700

Saturday & Sunday sessions  
Physical Sciences Building  
http://conf.ling.cornell.edu/SULA7/index.html

**May 8**  
AIP Awards Ceremony  
4:30 - 6:00 pm  
Statler Terrace
Benefit Concert
For the Akwesasne Freedom School

1 - 6 PM on Sunday, May 6

Frybread!

Richie Stearns, Kevin Kinsella,
Sim Redmond, Cielle Layton

&

Dan Hill (Cayuga Nation/Herons Clan)

Suggested Donation of $8

At the Lehman Alternative Community School (L.A.C.S)

111 Chesnut St.
Eligibility:
Current Native American students who are actively pursuing a degree in undergraduate, graduate or professional studies are eligible to apply. Applicants within six months of completion of their degree are also eligible to apply. **Students are expected to maintain a minimum overall G.P.A of 2.0.**

Applicants must have residency within New York State or a Haudenosaunee territory, or be enrolled in a college or university within New York State. **Students in a business-related field are strongly encouraged to apply.**

Applicants must submit the following:
- Application form
- Resume
- Cover letter expressing their interest
- Proof of Native identity via copy of Tribal enrollment card, copy of CDIB, or description of family lineage
- Copy of transcript

Selection:

Applicants will be selected based on their application materials and overall leadership potential. Applications will be reviewed by Ongweoweh staff and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Session          Fall (12 weeks)
Application Deadline  August 1
Start Date   First full week of September

Contacts:
Tsiorasa Barreiro
tbarreiro@ongweoweh.com

Kakwireiosta Hall
khall@ongweoweh.com

Company Overview:

Ongweoweh Corp was founded by Frank C. Bonamie in 1978. Mr. Bonamie is an enrolled member and former chief of the Cayuga Indian Nation of New York State. From its humble beginning as a pallet manufacturer in Mr. Bonamie’s garage, Ongweoweh has grown to service Fortune 500 and privately owned companies, throughout North America. In the past five years, the company has grown over
100% in revenue and employee base, providing local opportunities and national cost savings.

“Ongweoweh” (un-gwe-hoo-weh) was derived from the Iroquois word “Onkwehonwe”, which loosely translates to “the original people” or “the real people”.

Ongweoweh strives to embody the seventh generation principle of the Iroquois Great Law, which advises that, “In every deliberation, we must consider the impact on the seventh generation.” This principle guides Ongweoweh’s efforts to find full-circle solutions to benefit our collective future. Through utilization of this ethical understanding, Ongweoweh seeks to provide care and consideration for our future generations by challenging itself to identify methods by which waste is reduced through continuous use of material goods. These efforts further encourage us to become stewards of social responsibility, continuously seeking to increase the effectiveness of our full-circle solutions.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

American Indian Science and Engineering Society, A.T. Anderson Memorial Scholarship
DEADLINE: JUNE 15

The A.T. Anderson Memorial Scholarship program was established by AISES in 1983 in memory of A.T. Anderson (Mohawk), a chemical engineer and an AISES founder. Annual scholarships are awarded to members of AISES who are American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) college students pursuing academic degrees in the sciences, engineering, medicine, natural resources, and math.

The A.T. Anderson Memorial Scholarship program is a cornerstone of AISES’ scholarship activity. Over 28 years, AISES has awarded over $8.7M cumulatively in scholarship support to 4,924 AI/AN students. This is a competitive program. This year, 80 students were awarded scholarships from a candidate pool of over 160.

AISES Eligibility Criteria - Applicants MUST meet all of the following criteria:

1. 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or higher cumulative grade point average (GPA)
2. Full-time undergraduate or graduate student at an accredited four-year college/university, or a full-time student at a two-year college enrolled in a program leading to an academic degree
3. Member of an American Indian tribe, Alaska, or Native Hawaiian or otherwise considered to be an American Indian by the tribe with which affiliation is claimed; or is at least 1/4 American Indian blood; or is at least 1/4 Alaskan Native; or considered to be an Alaskan Native by an Alaskan Native group to which affiliation is claimed
4. Current AISES member

For more information regarding AISES scholarship programs, contact us or call Liz Encinias at 505-765-1052 x107