Akwe:kon “All of Us”

Nya:weh Skano!! Welcome new and returning Akwe:kon residents!! We are looking forward to working with you and helping in your adjustment to both Cornell and Akwe:kon in this 2014-2015 academic year!

We would just like to give you a brief (written) tour of Akwe:kon and provide a head start with some of the terms and names you will become familiar with over the course of the year.

Akwe:kon, pronounced 'a-gway-go', opened in the fall of 1991 as part of Cornell's American Indian Program. Akwe:kon is the first university residence in the country purposely built to celebrate Native heritage. In the Mohawk language, Akwe:kon means "All of Us." The spirit of this Haudenosaunee (also known as Six Nations or Iroquois) word is reflected in the inclusiveness that Akwe:kon offers to its residents and the broader community. Akwe:kon is home to 35 Native and non-Native students who share a common interest in past and contemporary Native/indigenous cultures, values and issues.

More than just a residential experience, Akwe:kon is a vibrant center of activity for the Native community at Cornell and beyond. The building is an artistic achievement, representing an institutional commitment to Native peoples and Cornell’s relationship with Native communities throughout New York State. Its architecture and design elements are living tools that represent Haudenosaunee culture and history, as well as the philosophy of community support and leadership development within the American Indian community at Cornell.

Akwe:kon is located on Cornell’s north campus. Two full service community centers with dining halls, a recreation facility and several other residence halls are all a short walk away, with a walk to central campus and most of your classes being a mere 10-15 minutes.

The common space in Akwe:kon includes the community room, kitchen, library, computer lab with free printing, laundry facilities, study rooms, TV lounge, 2 guest rooms and the multi-purpose room (MPR).

I am a member of the Seneca Nation Wolf Clan from the Seneca Allegany territory of Western New York, and am the Residence Hall Director of Akwe:kon. I joined the American Indian Program staff on March 5th, 2012.

I am a graduate of Syracuse University, where I was a varsity student athlete for the Men's lacrosse team for four years while earning a degree in Communications.

I bring a global perspective on Indigenous issues with a commitment to renewable energy and sustainable choices for healthy living.

My Native American cultural expertise is based on experience as a Haudenosaunee cultural interpreter and data analysis at the Rochester Museum and Science Center, working with Pueblo communities in Taos, New Mexico and service teaching in São José Dos Campos, São Paulo, Brasil.

I have extensive experience in mentoring students. I enjoy working with young people as they navigate their way through higher education. I particularly appreciate the unique opportunity of living within the Akwe:kon Community. The daily interactions with the students and the cultural programming that we are able to share with the residents as well as the broader Cornell Community are what make the position fun and engaging.

My family and I look forward to welcoming new faces to the Akwe:kon Community. We too have added to our family as my partner Amanda and I recently had our second daughter, Elsie Mae, born August 18, 2013. We live here in Akwe:kon with Selena (8), Elsie (1), and our 2-year-old Boston Terrier, Wen. The students of Akwe:kon have been very welcoming to me and my family and we appreciate the opportunity to live and work with the Residents of the community.

We look forward to meeting all of the incoming residents and we are excited about programs planned for this up-coming school year.

See you all soon!!!
Akwe:kon Student Staff

The Akwe:kon student staff consists of two Resident Advisors (RAs), and an Office Assistant (OA). The student staff is hired through the American Indian Program and Residential Programs. The RAs are live-in student staff members who have been trained in educational/social programming, counseling, crisis management, and can be helpful with locating various resources on campus. Akwe:kon is fortunate to have two RAs where most communities have one RA to about 35 students. They are here to help you, whether you need information, want to plan a program, or just need someone to talk to. There is an RA from Akwe:kon or from the nearby Ecology House on call every night after 7 pm, and all day during weekends.

The RHD and RAs are assisted and supported in their work by the Office Assistant. The OA keeps the office running smoothly and is responsible for maintaining and updating the bulletin boards as well as the Akwe:kon Library (which houses a fair amount of Native literature). The Student Staff are all here because they care about you and want to make your experience as successful and positive as possible!

Akwe:kon residents (from right to left, below) Fred Blaisdell (RA), Abraham Francis, Big Red Bear, Angela Han (RA), Heather Williams

2014-2015 Student Staff

- **Resident Advisor:** Fred Blaisdell, Room 237
- **Resident Advisor:** Angela Han, Room 127
- **Office Assistant:** Heather Williams

Things you'll need to know before you come....

**PETS:** The only pets allowed are fish in tanks no larger than 10 gallons (but fish are awesome and become well known by name!!!)

**DRUGS AND ALCOHOL:** Illegal drugs of any kind are **not** permitted. Akwe:kon is an **ALCOHOL FREE** building **regardless of your age**.

**SMOKING:** Akwe:kon is a **SMOKE FREE** building, though smoking is allowed 25 feet away from the building.

**LIGHTING:** You may bring additional lighting for your room; however, any type of lighting **over 150 watts is not allowed**. Spider lamps are also prohibited.

**INTERNET:** Each room in Akwe:kon has an ethernet port for your computer. Akwe:kon is also equipped with **WiFi access throughout** the building.

**ROOMS:** There is a twin-sized bed (Extra-Long Twin for sheets), desk, desk hutch, desk chair, dresser, freestanding closet/wardrobe, recycle bin and a trash can for each person. All rooms are carpeted (so your feet will feel nice and comfy!!).

**PROHIBITED ITEMS:** Residents are not allowed to posses Halogen or "spider" lamps, cinder blocks, and extension cords, among other items. The complete list of House Rules can be found at [http://living.sas.cornell.edu/live/movingin/community-rules-and-standards.cfm](http://living.sas.cornell.edu/live/movingin/community-rules-and-standards.cfm).

**DUMP & RUN:** Why buy new when you can go **GREEN** and purchase gently used items while contributing to local Ithaca Charities.

This year's Dump & Run sale will take place during Orientation Weekend – **Saturday, August 23** and **Sunday, August 24** – **in Helen Newman Gym** on North Campus. The sale is free and open to the entire Cornell and Ithaca communities. [http://living.sas.cornell.edu/live/movingin/dumpandrun/](http://living.sas.cornell.edu/live/movingin/dumpandrun/)

All proceeds from the sale will benefit **Cops, Kids & Toys; Loaves & Fishes; Shelter Outreach Services; Finger Lakes ReUse**; and the Cornell United Way Student Campaign.
Faculty Fellows

Faculty fellows are full-time Cornell University faculty members who have a strong interest in undergraduate students and maintain a relationship with a particular Residence Hall. At Akwe:kon the goal of the Faculty Fellows program is to involve two faculty members from the American Indian Program in the lives of students and to promote meaningful relationships outside of the classroom setting. Faculty Fellows host our weekly Community Dinners, and plan events and programs with the Akwe:kon staff for all residents of Akwe:kon to enjoy.

Some Dates to Keep in Mind:

Fall 2014
- Residence Halls Open – August 22nd
- Orientation Begins – August 22nd
- Classes Start – August 26th
- Fall Break – October 11-14th
- Thanksgiving Break – November 26-Nov.30
- Last Day of Classes – December 5th
- Exams Week- December 10th-18th

If you have any questions, contact the Akwe:kon RHD Ansley Jemison at:

105 Akwe:kon
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853

office: 607.255.0652
Fax: 607.254.5227

amj78@cornell.edu
akwekon@cornell.edu
http://www.aip.cornell.edu/cals/aip/

If you will be a resident of Akwe:kon for the 2014–2015 year, your mailing address will be as follows:

(Room #) Akwe:kon
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853

Note: there is no official “street name” necessary to receive your mail.

Akwe:kon is located on the corner of Triphammer Rd. and Jessup Rd. on Cornell’s North Campus Map It

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