

WELCOME TO AKWE:KON!



Some of the Architectural symbolism:

- The house itself is built in the shape of an eagle with the wings outstretched north and south for watchful protection



- Out front is a curved wall representing the two row wampum belt
- Behind the wall is a circle honoring the Cayuga Nation (on whose homeland Akwe:kon sits)
- Behind the circle are 6 boulders symbolizing the 6 Iroquois nations
- The picture on top of the windows on the west side represents the Hiawatha Belt

- For more information on Akwe:kon's symbolism, visit: <http://www.aip.cornell.edu/cals/aip/student-life/akwekon/symbolsand-meanings.cfm>



Akwe:kon residents on the Fall 2008 Akwe:kon House Retreat.

This semester, there will be a house retreat, a midnight breakfast sponsored by AIP, trips to local Native communities, and many other wonderful programs put on by our Resident Advisors and AIP! If you have events or programs you'd like to see, talk to your RA or join Ongwe, the Akwe:kon Hall Council!

Sagoli! 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 2009-2010 academic year.

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

Akwe:kon, pronounced 'a-gway-go', opened in the fall of 1991 and is the first university residence of its kind 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 community. Akwe:kon is home to 35 Native and non-Native students who share a common interest in past and contemporary Native culture, values and issues.

More than just a residential experience, Akwe:kon has established itself as the center of the Native community at Cornell and beyond. The building is an artistic achievement, representing an institutional commitment to Native people and Cornell's relationship with Native communities throughout New York State. Its architecture and design are living tools that vividly represent Haudenosaunee culture and history, as well as the philosophy of community support and leadership development among 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 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 includes the community room, kitchen, library, computer lab, laundry facilities, study rooms, TV lounge, and the multi-purpose room (MPR).

Akwe:kon Student Staff

The Akwe:kon student staff consists of two Resident Advisors (RAs), one Office Assistant (OA), one Library Assistant (LA), and one Computer Lab Assistant (CLA). The RAs and OA are hired through the American Indian Program and Campus Life Residential Programs. The RAs are live-in student staff members who have been trained in educational/ social programming, counseling, crisis management and who are helpful with locating various resources on campus. Akwe:kon is fortunate enough to have 2 RAs where most communities have 1 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 a RA (Resident Advisor) from Akwe:kon or from Ecology House on call every night after 7pm, 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 Akwe:kon Library (which houses a fair amount of Native literature). . Both the Computer Lab and Library Assistant positions are work-study positions. The CLA is responsible for the maintenance and operations of the Akwe:kon Computer Lab. They are all here because they care about you and want to make your experience as successful and positive as possible!



Akwe:kon RA Jackie Blas challenges a resident in an intense game of "Rock, Paper, Scissors."

Resident Advisors:

- TBD, Room 127
- Jacqueline Blas, Room 237

Office Assistant: TBD

Computer Lab Assistant: TBD

Residence Hall Director

The Residence Hall Director (RHD) is a full-time professional staff member who lives in the residence hall. The RHD is responsible for the long-range planning as well as day-to-day operations of the building. The RHD supervises and trains the RAs and other student staff, handles disciplinary situations, and is Akwe:kon's representative to its parent organizations: The American Indian Program, Campus Life Residential Programs, and Cornell University.

Who's the RHD?

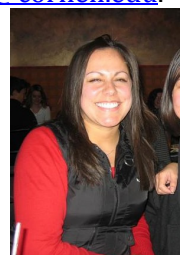
My name is **Kakwireiosta Hall** (Cherokee and Mohawk), also known as **Leyosta/Reiosta** (pronounced Lee-o-sda) and I am from the Onondaga Nation, which is surrounded by Central New York. I graduated from Colgate University, where I received Bachelor Degrees in both Sociology/Anthropology and Native American Studies.

In the summer of 2006, I served as an intern in the Education Department at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. I also participated in the WINS Program (Washington Internship for Native Students) at American University in the spring of 2006, through which I interned at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP). I am also a member of the Haudenosaunee Singers and Dancers.

Prior to my arrival at Cornell University, I tutored homebound high school students through the Lafayette School District. In addition to being the RHD of Akwe:kon, I also serve as the Advisor for the student group NASAC (Native American Students at Cornell), which includes the NASAC Powwow Committee.

I look forward to meeting all of you soon! If you have questions don't hesitate to contact me at (607) 255-0652 or kh384@cornell.edu.

Kakwireiosta Hall has been the Akwe:kon Residence Hall Director since January 2007.



Faculty Fellows

- TBA
- Christopher Andronicos, Associate Professor, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

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. The goal of the program is to involve faculty in the lives of students and to promote a meaningful relationship outside of the classroom setting. Faculty Fellows host the Akwe:kon Community Dinners which occur once a week and plan programs with the Akwe:kon staff.



Professor Andronicos will be an Akwe:kon Faculty Fellow for the second consecutive year.

Facility Staff

- Denise Wheeler

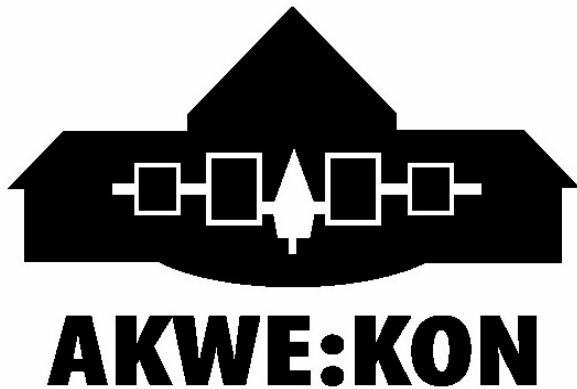
Akwe:kon has one full-time housekeeping person and a number of facility maintenance staff who helps us take care of our building. The housekeeper generally takes care of cleaning common areas, however, we are ALL responsible for keeping our community looking beautiful. Do not forget to get to know and appreciate Denise! It's not by chance that Akwe:kon stays so clean!!

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.
- INTERNET: Each room in Akwe:kon has an ethernet port for your computer. Akwe:kon is also equipped with newly installed WiFi, for all of your wireless internet needs!
- 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 you're feet will feel nice and comfy!!).
- PROHIBITED ITEMS: Residents are not allowed to possess Halogen or "spider" lamps and extension cords, among other items. The complete list of House Rules can be found at <http://www.housing.cornell.edu/campuslife/resprog/upload/RPHouseRules-07-08.pdf>

A Few Words from Residential Student Congress

The Residential Student Congress is an organization dedicated to promoting communication among the residential communities and encouraging leadership in their members. If you wish to get involved as a General Executive Member, 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 Akwe:kon in the Residential Student Congress, help to develop pertinent programs and initiatives, and present your community's concerns to the assembled GEMs. You can also get involved in Ongwe, the Akwe:kon Hall Council.



Some Dates to Keep in Mind:

- Residence Halls Open – August 21st
- Orientation Begins – August 21st as well
- Classes Start – August 27th
- Fall Break – October 10-13
- Thanksgiving Break – November 25-29
- Last Day of Classes – December 5
- Last Day of Exams- December 18

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