

State University of New York
College at Cortland

Welcome to
2019
Kente Celebration

Hosted by
The Multicultural Life and Diversity Office

Karibu Karamu
Ya Wahitimu

April 6, 2019
6 p.m.

Corey Union Function Room



The students who stand before you today are a reflection of hard work, perseverance, and a commitment to education. This class of students have had substantial intentional engagement in diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice work in their experiences here. I can say with great pride that the graduating class of 2019 has been intentional in being inclusive and willing to do the work towards experiencing human and cultural differences, and improving our campus climate. They have held us accountable in making sure our institution does a better job creating the spaces and providing the resources necessary to assure equitable educational experiences for all of our students. We have gathered together this evening to celebrate an exceptional graduating class and Kente participants, who by their sheer number have changed the face of SUNY Cortland for those coming after them. This year's Kente Celebration is the biggest in the history of SUNY Cortland. We are very proud to have worked with such exceptional students and look forward to seeing how they will excel in their career paths and contribute back to their communities. Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world," and I am fully confident that the students who are being honored here tonight are all well equipped to go out into this world and change it for the better!

AnnaMaria Cirrincione

Director of Multicultural Life and Diversity

The Kente Stole

The Kente stole is a rich, multicolored, hand-woven style of cloth that originated in Ghana, West Africa, and is revered throughout the Africana World. It is traditionally worn during important national ceremonies. The colors, patterns, and ideogramatic images of the Kente stole impart important information about the wearer and highlight the importance of an event or ceremony. The Kente stole is relatively new to commencement ceremonies in the United States and signifies and symbolizes higher education's connection to the rich cultures, intellectual traditions and academic achievements of the Africana World.



The Kente Ceremony

The Kente Ceremony symbolizes and commemorates the rite of passage for learners and scholars who are transitioning from institutions of higher learning to the next chapter of their lives. Here at SUNY Cortland we celebrate all students who made this journey despite and in addition to their marginalized identities, experiences of social exclusion, under representation, historical and current inequities in education, and those here who stood as allies and advocates.

Kente Program

Welcome

AnnaMaria Cirrincione, Director of MLDO

Black National Anthem (Lift Every Voice and Sing)

Sang by: Shaquanna Forrest

Keynote

Yusuf Muhammad '99

Dinner

Thank you to ASC for their year long support of MLDO programming.

The History of Kente

Breanna Washington '19 and Kevin Robinson '19

Distinguished Honorary Kente Stole Presentations

Dr. Seth Asumah

Calvin Louis-Juste '09 Award Presentations

Wendy Diaz '09 and Lima Maria Stafford '12

Student Kente Stole Presentations

Closing Words

Dr. Erik J. Bitterbaum, President SUNY Cortland

Keynote Speaker



Yusuf Muhammad serves as the Founding Principal of the STEAM Academy at Carver High in Atlanta, GA. A turnaround school, the STEAM Academy at Carver was recently designated the poorest high school in Georgia. Prior to this position, he was the Principal of City Polytechnic High School and the Benjamin Banneker High School for Community Development in Brooklyn, NY.

Yusuf earned his Bachelor of Arts degrees in both Secondary Social Studies and African American Studies as an EOP student from SUNY Cortland in 1999. He holds two Master's degrees in Education and African and African American Studies from SUNY Cortland and Cornell University, respectively. He received his School Building Leader Professional Certification from Baruch College.

Yusuf was raised in Brooklyn and currently resides in Atlanta with his four daughters.

The Distinguished Honorary Stole



The distinguished honorary stole goes to an administrator who has shown great commitment to the persistence and success of underrepresented students at SUNY Cortland. As the Kente Celebration honors the student journey, we also want to make sure that those who supported that journey are visible as well. We hope that those receiving stoles will wear them in solidarity at the graduation commencements this year and in the future. This presentation is in its 8th year with the inaugural 2011 recipient being President Erik Bitterbaum.

We are honored to present this years distinguished honorary stoles to: James Felton, Brandon Manning, Dr. Sebastian Purcell, Dr. Ibipo Johnston-Anumonwo and Nanette Pasquarello

Class of 2019



Mouath Abufarah—Bachelor of Science in Physical Education. Keyla Cruz will be the stole presenter.

Andy Acevedo— Bachelor of Arts in Business Economics. Michael Medina will be the stole presenter.

Johnnie Akins— Bachelor of Science in Physical Education. Joe Vito & Melissa Mohan will be the stole presenters.

Dalton Alexis— Bachelor of Science in Biology & Psychology. Brandon Williams will be the stole presenter.

Gabrielle-Alessandra Alleyne - Bachelor of Science in Sports Management. Sandra & Randolph Alleyne will be the stole presenters.

Tajmir Anderson— Bachelor of Arts in Criminology. Jennifer Phanord will be the stole presenter.

Josh Antoine— Bachelor of Science in Physical Education. Lima Stafford will be the stole presenter.

Kendra Arcos— a Bachelor of Science in Outdoor Recreation. AnnaMaria Cirrincione will be the stole presenter.

Megan Astor— Bachelor of Science in Inclusive Childhood Education. Eryn Griep will be the stole presenter.

Roshanda Augustine— Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences. Angela Hazelit will be the stole presenter.

Kishana Bartley— Bachelor of Science in Community Health. Jodie Jenkin will be the stole presenter.

Nicole Basile— Bachelor of Science in Inclusive Education with a concentration in Environmental Science. James Felton will be the stole presenter.

Kristin Bonfanti— Bachelor of Arts in Criminology. Michael Coby will be the stole presenter.

Neomi Brereton— Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science. Shirley & Ronald Brereton will be the stole presenters.

Varsha Chipala Stash— Bachelor of Science in Energy Systems. Daniela Baban Hurrle will be the stole presenter.

Jasmine Cole— Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Science. Merissah Gilbert will be the stole presenter.

Miriel Collado— Bachelor of Science in BioMedical Science. Michelle Collado will be the stole presenter.

Karla Correa Maldonado— Bachelor of Science in Business Economics. Nadia Manzueta will be the stole presenter.

Justine Crespo— Bachelor of Science in Sports Management. Josette Claudio will be the stole presenter.

Shana Crespo— Bachelor of Science in Business Economics. Jimmy Crespo will be the stole presenter.

Keyla Cruz— Bachelor of Science in Community Health. Kenia Cruz will be the stole presenter.

Season Cunningham— Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science. Percey Cunningham will be the stole presenter.

Yardalie Daniel— Bachelor of Science in Business Economics. Janelle Fore will be the stole presenter.

Kayla DeBello-Hoffmann— Bachelor of Science in Community Health. Maura Elam will be the stole presenter.

Jessica DelBene— Bachelor of Science in Selected Studies. Jessica Bilek will be the stole presenter.

Nogzi Douglas — Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences with a minor in Exercise Science. Olyvia Harrian will be the stole presenter.

Shelby Dugan— Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Public Policy. Shelby could not attend.

Yesselith Duran— Bachelor of Science in Community Health. Yesselith could not attend.

Jailyn Estevez— Bachelor of Science in Biology. Dr. Angela Pagano will be presenting the stole.

Skye Feinman— Bachelor of Science in Selected Studies. Kimberly Acosta will be the stole presenter.

Alexandra Fischer— Bachelor of Science: Inclusive Childhood Education. Jessica Goon will be the stole presenter.

Shaquanna Forrest— Bachelor of Science: Psychology. Samantha Bogle and Shanice Davy will be the stole presenters.

Ivana Gardner— Bachelor of Science: Biology. Dr. Peter Ducey will be the stole presenter.

Kevin Gaussaint— Bachelor of Science: Physical Education. Kevin was not able to be with us.

Merissah Gilbert— Bachelor of Science: Exercise Science. Lima Stafford will be the stole presenter.

Jessica Goon— Bachelor of Arts: Archaeology. Dr. Laura Gathagan will be the stole presenter.

Zienna Greene— : Childhood Education. Nina Loukianenko will be the stole presenter.

Jasmine Griffin— Bachelor of Science: Psychology with a minor in Women, Gender and Sexuality. Nannette Pasquarello will be the stole presenter.

Yasmeen Griffin— Bachelor of Science: Psychology. Venette Miller-Griffin will be the stole presenter.

Jacqueline Guzman— Bachelor of Arts: TESOL. Shena Salvator will be the stole presenter.

Marla Hairston— Bachelor of Science: Psychology. Jim FitzGerald will be the stole presenter.

Sarah Harmatuk— MSED Literacy Education. Mary Jo Harmatuk will be the stole presenter.

Roy Harvey— Exercise Science. Yosmi Trinidad will be the stole presenter.

Angie Hemmings— Selective Studies with emphasis of Physical Education. Shillyne Hemmings will be the stole presenter.

Joel Hernandez— Bachelor of Science: Exercise Science. Danny Naranjo will be the stole presenter.

Kevin Tito Hernandez— Fitness Development. Luis Perdomo will be the stole presenter.

Amberli Hidalgo— Bachelor of Science: Psychology. Sujayliz Alfred will be the stole presenter.

Chakira Hierro— Bachelor of Arts: Sociology. Kimberly Arugeta will be the stole presenter.

Ebony Hubbard— Bachelor of Science: Early Childhood/Childhood Education with a concentration in Humanities. Charles Hubbard Jr. will be the stole presenter.

Ruth Idowu— Bachelor of Science: Business Economics. Funmi Adewuni will be the stole presenter.

Angelique Jean-Charles— Master of Science: Carla Auguste will be the stole presenter.

Taylor Johnson— Bachelor of Science: Communication Studies. Sadayia Smith will be the stole presenter.

Nicole Jurado— Sports Management. Giselle Picon will be the stole presenter.

Janique Lewis— Bachelor of Science: Janet Cark Milton will be the stole presenter.

Olivia Lindsay— Bachelor of Science: Sports Management. Deanna Lindsay will be the stole presenter.

Annabelle Liz— New Media Design. Ana Rodriguez will be the stole presenter.

Alaina Lynch— Political Science and Criminology. Lindsey Minor will be the stole presenter.

Autum MacDonald— Bachelor of Science : Biology. Shannon Santos will be the stole presenter

Shanara Mack— Sports Management. Aisha Mack will be the stole presenter.

Raheemah Madany— Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science. Dr. Jeff Bauer will be the stole presenter.

Laura Marte-Genao— Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. Mercedes Genao will be the stole presenter.

Cassidy McCrea— Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science. Eryn Griep will be the stole presenter.

Katera McKay— Bachelor of Arts in International Studies. Sharon Steadman will be the stole presenter.

Leslie McKay— Bachelor of Science in Community Health. Faud Ishaq will be the stole presenter

Shannon McLeod— Bachelor of Science in Biology. Oprah McLeod will be the stole presenter.

Melissa Mera-Fernandez— Bachelor of Art in Criminology. Catherine Tolentino will be the stole presenter.

Andres Miranda— Bachelor of Science in Physical Education. Dr. Brian Barrett will be the stole presenter.

Tanna Mohammed— Bachelor of Arts in Adolescence Education (English). Anne Burns Thomas will be the stole presenter.

Valerie Moise— Bachelor of Science in Community Health and Allied Health. Raheemah Modany will be the stole presenter.

Cyrenius Nelson— Bachelor of Arts in English. Karyn Yahn will be the stole presenter.

Sierra Noel— Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. Kevin Robinson will be the stole presenter.

Tatiana Nolan— Bachelor of Science in Coaching. AnnaMaria Cirrincione will be the stole presenter.

Ryane O’Conner— Bachelor of Science in Inclusive Childhood Education. Justin Neretich will be the stole presenter.

Re’Gene Oates— Bachelor of Arts in Professional Writing. Breanna Washington, Elizabeth Hassell, and Gabrielle Alleyne will be the stole presenters.

Kaitlyn Marie Otero— Bachelor of Science in Biology. Adam Gerritsen will be the stole presenter.

Briana Pantor-Isaacs— Bachelor of Science in Biology. Earl Isaacs will be the stole presenter.

Jordan Pedroza— Bachelor of Science in Sport Management. Jomarys Solano will be the stole presenter.

Jennifer Phanord— Bachelor of Science in Sport Management, Tajmir Anderson will be the stole presenter.

Quashawn Prince— Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts. Stephen Clark will be the stole presenter.

Giovanni Quinones— Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science. Eddie Lare will be the stole presenters.

Loren Rapaport— Bachelor of Science in Adolescence Education: Mathematics. Zaire Francis will be the stole presenter.

Kevin Robinson— Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and minor in Africana Studies. Dr. Seth Asumah will be the stole presenter.

Ryan Roldan— Bachelor of Science in Sports Management. Emily Salazar will be the stole presenter.

Kalen Rucker— Bachelor of Arts in Communications. Christopher Ortega will be the stole presenter.

Isabella Santos— Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science. Brandon Williams will be the stole presenter.

Sadat Sayon— Bachelor of Science in Sports Management. Sadat could not attend.

Ashley Skoblow— Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies. Jeanette Mazzilli will be the stole presenter.

Megann Smith— Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood and Childhood Education. Kathleen Reilly will be the stole presenter.

Itiana Stone-Smith— Bachelor of Science in Sports Management. Lizbel Chavez will be the stole presenter.

Laasia Swift— Bachelor of Science in Therapeutic Recreation. Jeanne Cameron will be the stole presenter.

Patricia Taveras— Bachelor of Science in Criminology. Amber Gratereaux will be the stole presenter.

Danielle Thomas - Bachelor of Science in Fitness Management. Tracey Robinson will be the stole presenter..

Daryn Thomas— Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies. Soi'More Cherry will be the stole presenter.

Fanny Turbi— Bachelor of Science in Criminology. Vanira Baez will be the stole presenter.

Sophie Umansky— Bachelor of Science in Business Economics. Judy Umansky will be the stole presenter.

Chris Venant— Bachelor of Science in Business Economics. Michael Guity will be the stole presenter.

Saynyenoh Warner— Bachelor of Science in Business Economics. Eunice Miller will be the stole presenter.

Breanna Washington— Bachelor of Science as a Duel Major in Special Education with a concentration in the Social Sciences. Robbin, Thelma and Robert Abrams will be the stole presenters.

Veronica Washington— Bachelor of Science in Sports Management. Veronica Washington will be the stole presenter.

Jermaine Watkins— Bachelor of Science in Sports Management. Tiffany Garzon & Lavonne Johnson will be stole the presenters.

Ilan Watson— Bachelor of Science in Sports Management. Keenan Watson will be the stole presenter.

Alexandra Wean— Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science. Alexandra could not attend.

Kathryn White— Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Tyrell Plaza will be the stole presenter.

Emily Widdekind— Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Minor. TESOL. Shena Salvato will be the stole presenter.

D'monte Woody— Bachelor of Science in Physical Education. Maurice Hart will be the stole presenter.

Calvin Louis-Juste '09 Memorial Award



Criteria for award

- Must be a graduating senior
- Be an example of high academic achievement (3.0 GPA or higher)
- Committed to doing community service
- Be a leader on campus and be in extracurricular activities
- Be passionate about continuing to improve oneself
- Advocate for equity and inclusion on campus

This is the first year that the Multicultural Life and Diversity Office will present the Calvin Louis-Juste Memorial Award. The winner of the award will receive it at our Annual Kente Celebration on Saturday, April 6, 2019. We will also be installing a plaque in the Voice Office that we will add the name of the winner of the award to each year at the Voice Office and Kente Reunion July 11-14, 2019.



Calvin Louis-Juste '09 Memorial



In honor of Calvin Louis-Juste (March 10, 1987-May 29, 2011) who graduated SUNY Cortland in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Economics. He was a proud Haitian-American. After graduating from Cortland, he completed his Masters in Business at Argosy University at the Washington D.C campus. He was part of the executive board of the Economics Club and Men of Value and Excellence (MOVE). He was also an active member of Black Student Union (BSU), Caribbean Student Association (CSA), La Familia Latina (LFL), and Women of Color (WOC). He volunteered with Habitat for Humanity. During his undergraduate experience, he also studied abroad in China two times.

His good friend and roommate at Glass towers, Joseph Mannion '09, described him as follows:

“For those who knew him best, Calvin was an open and caring person. He was always looking to go above and beyond to help someone out. His altruistic nature and bright smile made everyone feel at ease and he motivated anyone that had the pleasure to meet him, to strive for greatness. Calvin effortlessly made the day better by just being in his presence. He is sorely missed but not forgotten. We keep Calvin’s memories close to heart and strive to live each day to make ourselves and the world a better place in his honor.”

Lima Maria Stafford '12 described him as follows:

“I met Calvin when I attended SUNY Cortland in 2008 for my undergraduate degree. He was very helpful and made sure that I transitioned to Cortland well. He introduced me to the Voice Office organizations and encouraged me to get involved with the Caribbean Student Association (CSA) and Men of Value and Excellence (MOVE). There was never a dull moment with Calvin. He was motivational, ambitious and a positive role model. He is gone but not forgotten and I am excited that my office will be honoring his name. He exemplifies what it truly means to be a Man of Value and Excellence.”



It takes a village. The increase in diversity of our student population means that the MLDO did not support these graduates alone. The students were asked to tell us about one person, either faculty, staff or fellow student, who made a positive impact on their experience here at SUNY Cortland. This is what they had to say:

Mouath Abufarah had to say: Like for many other students, Lima Stafford has been my mother on campus. Along with my club, Men of Value and Excellence, she has influenced me and motivated me to be a more positive influence on campus. Shout out to EOP.

Andy Acevedo had to say: Judy never gave up on me and my academic struggles.

Johnnie Akins had to say: Dr. Virginia Wright is my Phys Ed. advisor who has helped me throughout my time in the major, from designing my schedule every semester to being that voice that I needed to keep me going. She's one of the sweetest women I have ever met and one of the many who have seen the potential in me before I saw it in myself. She has helped mold me into the man I'm becoming and the role I will play as a future educator.

Dalton Alexis had to say: Dr. Broyles has left a positive impact on my experience as a Cortland student. Despite the work load that came with the classes in the major, he always made his lectures fun and enjoyable. His love for his work has taught me that true happiness comes from ones passion and incorporating this into their lives leads to true happiness. I experienced this "lesson" with each class and each conversation as he lives and breaths passion.

Gabrielle-Alessandra Alleyne had to say: I have to choose two people my friends. Breanna Washington and Re'Gene Oates have both impacted my experience in Cortland in a positive way. They helped me out of my comfort zone, encouraged me to try new things with my life and were there through my ups and downs here at SUNY Cortland. I hope to stay friends with them for life.

Tajmir Anderson had to say: Former SUNY Cortland football coach, Tunde Agboke, made a positive impact on my experience as a SUNY Cortland student because of his encouraging words and he was also my mentor.

Josh Antoine had to say: Lima Stafford made a positive impact on my experience as a SUNY Cortland student. I was satisfied with just being on a sports team and not getting more involved on campus due to my lack of spare time. She made some good points about the pros that come with getting involved more on campus. Her advice helped make my experience as a student amazing. I was able to make new friends, have fun, and network with many people that I possibly wouldn't have talked to if it wasn't for the Caribbean Student Association.

Kendra Arcos had to say: I would like to thank my two roommates Ashley and Ryane. For making me become a better person then I was the day before and for making college full of happy and exciting memories I'll never forget.

Megan Astor had to say: Eryn Griep is a huge part of my character development and I owe her a huge part of my success in Cortland and my life after meeting her.

Roshanda Augustine had to say: Lima Stafford because she is exactly where I was from & I felt a connection with her. She taught us how being open and getting involved with groups different from us wasn't a bad thing, and how it helps to open our minds and get connected to others different from us. She didn't let her differences stop her from being great growing up. Lima taught us no matter how much you struggle you can make it and that its okay to seek help. Lima was also my advisor for several clubs and showed what great leadership looks like.

Kishana Bartley had to say: Since I started at Cortland, Dr. Blavos has always been supportive and understanding. As a professor, she has had a major impact during my time on campus.

Nicole Basile had to say: Since coming to SUNY Cortland there have been two groups of people that have left the most positive experiences, my rugby team and the MLDO office. With my team I learned who I was and they taught me to never be afraid to be myself. AnnaMaria, Lima, and Dana have taught me compassion, to work hard, and to always be the best version of myself.

Kristin Bonfani had to say: Itiana Stone-Smith has made a very positive impact in my experience as a SUNY Cortland student because of her motivation and strive to always help me better myself in everything I do. I met her by going random in a dorm housing assignment and ever since then we been living together. She is so understanding and very uplifting and always looking to help in any situation she could. I can trust her and she is an amazing friend and roommate. I am so thankful to have someone like her in my life and I give thanks to SUNY Cortland for bringing us together.

Neomi Brereton had to say: Alexander Jackson has helped me develop as a writer and has been more of an advisor to me than my actual advisor.

Varsha Chipala Statish had to say: Daniela Baban Hurrle made a positive impact in my experience as a SUNY Cortland by encouraging me to participate in all the activities, giving sensible solutions for whatever problems i had and because of her I am strong and bold, who has the courage to face the world by myself.

Jasmine Cole had to say: At my time at SUNY Cortland the person who impacted my life at Cortland was Merissah because she helped me become the person I became today.

Miriel Collado had to say: Lima Stafford because she was there to guide me and help me whenever I needed.

Karla Correa Maldonado had to say: Professor Kim Evans was a adjunct professor here. She helped me expand my appreciation for learning. She helped me ask daring questions that can be difficult to answer. I'm so thankful she was there to guide me through my studies.

Justine Crespo had to say: Natasha McFadden: She was my internship supervisor and she has always believed in me. She had the utmost faith in my work when she hired me and she's always supported all of my endeavors, including on the basketball court at many home games.

Shana Crespo had to say: Taylor Lynch has made a positive impact in my experience at Suny Cortland because as my supervisor she tries to give me the best work place experience and always supports me in everything I do.

Keyla Cruz had to say: My sister because we are first to attend college in our family and ever since I entered SUNY Cortland she has always helped me and kept track of me. She was the one who informed me EOP, she always advised me to do what makes me happy and reminded me academics come first. My sister is my role model.

Season Cunningham had to say: Annabelle Liz is someone who made a positive impact on my experience at SUNY Cortland. I decided to take a semester off of school before starting my college journey. Coming to SUNY Cortland a semester later (Spring 2016), I didn't know anyone or how to navigate about campus. Annabelle Liz was a great help and showed me a lot of amazing things Cortland has to offer. We have been great friends ever since.

Yardalie Daniel had to say: My friends would agree that I've spent most of my time working for ASC than hanging out with them. I wish it was otherwise, but I don't regret it fully or else I wouldn't have money in my pocket. My experience, here at Cortland, wouldn't be complete without my job where I met the most wonderful people I'm friends with and my supervisors who put up with me going 'over hours'.

Kayla DeBello-Hoffmann had to say: Yan Salcedo, the manager of Union Station on campus, has acted as a father to me throughout the years. From immediate hire, he has taken care of his staff no matter the means. He constantly checks in and is always available to give his big bear hugs. He is hands down the best boss I've ever had.

Jessica Del Bene had to say: So many people have made an impact on me here at Cortland. Heather Palermo, my RHD, has been my guidance and support system throughout my senior year. She is always there when I need someone to talk to or laugh with, and I know will continue to be there for me after I graduate. Marinda Souva was my guardian angel when I needed one most. She has always supported me and given me opportunities that I am forever grateful for. After meeting Jessica Bilek, she instantly became the mentor I never knew I needed. Whether I needed advice on jobs, fashion, relationships, graduate schools or anything in between, she has always been there to provide it. I would not have gotten through the last four years without these three women, thank you all.

Ngozi Douglas had to say: One person who has made a positive impact on my experience as a SUNY Cortland student was my professor Dr. Peter Ducey. Throughout my 4 years here, he has pushed me to take some of the most intense science classes, including one of his classes and continued to tell me to believe in myself and my abilities as a student. If it wasn't for his encouraging words and his tough-love attitude, I wouldn't have pushed myself as much as I did throughout my time here at SUNY Cortland.

Shelby Dugan had to say: Coach Brooks because she became my Coach for my senior year and exceeded all my expectations and become a key stepping stone in my growth as an individual.

Yesselith Duran had to say: Ms. Blavos is an amazing professor who always goes above and beyond for her students. She is greatly appreciated.

Jailyn Estevez had to say: Dr. Pagano, a professor in the Biological Sciences.

Skye Feinman had to say: Tatiana Nolan because she always inspires me to be the best I can be, even when I am having a rough day. She is the sunshine I need when it is dark in Cortland.

Alexandra Fischer had to say: Jessica Goon. I met Jesse our freshman year, and have watched our friendship blossom over our years at Cortland. We've laughed together, cried together, and grown together. I'm immensely grateful for a friend like her.

Shaquanna Forrest had to say: Lima Stafford because she gives great advice and is always a listening ear for concerns. She is very supportive and a great mentor.

Ivana Gardner had to say: Throughout my four years here at Cortland, my friends, fellow staff members and professors have all made a positive impact on my college career. They all reassured me that I had an amazing support system and I'll cherish the memories, laughs, and even cries we all shared together.

Kevin Gaussaint had to say: Anne Burns-Thomas. She is my scholarship program director for C.U.R.E. She has taught me to never be afraid to be an advocate for what I believe in. She has also helped develop my passion for working with disadvantaged students.

Angelique Jean-Charles had to say: Marisa Spagnolo - She was one of the reasons I made it through grad school. We stayed up many nights studying together and becoming good friends

Merissah Gilbert had to say: Lima Stafford, mentor in every aspect.

Jessica Goon had to say: So many professors have had a positive impact on my experience at SUNY Cortland. They have all encouraged me to follow my interests, but one professor has helped me with my research interests more than others. Dr. Laura Gathagan has helped me find sources for my research and always encouraged me to ask more questions than I could possibly find answers for. She has gone out of her way to help me even when she is busy doing her own work.

Zienna Greene had to say: All of the students and faculty .

Jasmine Griffin had to say: Nannette Pasquarello because she is dedicated to her job as Title IX coordinator. She never complains about the work that needs to get done. She just makes sure that it gets done. She welcomes everyone's ideas and treats everyone with respect. She has inspired me to always stand up for what I believe in by showing up to events where I can use my voice and show my support.

Yasmeen Griffin had to say: Dr. John Sosa. His passion for teaching is the reason why I picked up Anthropology as a minor. Also, I wanted to know more about the different aspects of human experiences after taking a class with him. He is truly an inspiration and will open your mind and teach you so much about the world around us that we don't know.

Jacqueline Guzman had to say: My stole presenter, Shena Salvato. She has been there for me throughout all my years here in college. She listened to me and gave me amazing advice. She pushed me to be where I am today because she saw potential in me when things got rough the past few years. I couldn't have done this with out her and she's just an amazing role model.

Marla Hairston had to say: James FitzGerald, challenged me to view things from different perspectives and push myself to be a better leader.

Sarah Harmatuk had to say: Nance Wilson, Literacy Department Chair. She is very personable and has been someone I can trust throughout my entire Cortland Career who really seeks to have my best interest at heart.

Roy Harvey had to say: The entire Cortland football organization, for pushing me to become my best and molding me into the man I am. I learned the true meaning of resilience and how to overcome adversity.

Angie Hemmings had to say: Virginia Wright is a person who is great at her job and honestly helped with every situation I felt was too difficult to handle in academics. She gave me great advice and always motivated me to be bigger and better.

Joel Hernandez had to say: AnnaMaria has made a positive impact, teaching me to always strive for success through unity.

Kevin Tito Hernandez had to say: Louise Mahar

Amberli Hidalgo had to say: Dr. Bonafide because she has guided me through all obstacles faced and has never given up on the goals that I have for myself.

Chakira Hierro had to say: My counselor, without her I probably would have given up on a lot of stuff including myself.

Ebony Hubbard had to say: Olyvia Harrian is a fellow student who has made an impact in my experience here at SUNY Cortland. She has constantly looked out for me in my toughest and most down moments and if it weren't for her, without a doubt, I wouldn't have made it through in the ways I have.

Ruth Idowu had to say: Funmi Adewuni has made a positive impact in my experience as a SUNY Cortland student. Being a college student is not easy and I can always talk to Funmi whenever something is bothering me or when I am feeling down. She goes out of her way to make sure that I am okay. Whenever I need advice, I know that I can count on Funmi to help me make the right decision. Funmi is the true definition of a friend.

Angelique Jean-Charles had to say:

Olivia Lindsay had to say: Jaclyn Lawrence (Assistant Director of Athletics for Events, Marketing, & Development) gave me my first professional start within the sport industry.

Annabelle Liz had to say: Definitely the members of La Familia Latina. Joining this club definitely gave me a sense of community and comfort when I started here at Cortland and has always been my safe space throughout my four years in Cortland.

Alaina Lynch had to say: Lindsey Minor has made a tremendous impact in my experience as a SUNY Cortland student and as a human being. Lindsey has always been my rock since I arrived on campus. An unwavering source of support and constant source of laughter, Lindsey has made my experience at Cortland incredible. As a friend and a role model Lindsey has shown me how to be compassionate, honest and trustworthy just by being her.

Taylor Johnson had to say: Dr. Seth Asumah

Nicole Jurado had to say: Andy Acevedo because he showed me how to overcome any struggle.

Janique Lewis had to say: Barbara Barton was my advisor and has helped me with my educational plan which was needed in order for me to pursue my dream of being a nurse practitioner. I am grateful that I was given an advisor that was a role model because she was a nurse herself and helped guide me in the right direction to reach my goals.

Olivia Lindsay had to say: Jaclyn Lawrence (Assistant Director of Athletics for Events, Marketing, & Development) gave me my first professional start within the sport industry.

Annabelle Liz had to say: Definitely the members of La Familia Latina. Joining this club definitely gave me a sense of community and comfort when I started here at Cortland and has always been my safe space throughout my four years in Cortland.

Alaina Lynch had to say: Lindsey Minor has made a tremendous impact in my experience as a SUNY Cortland student and as a human being. Lindsey has always been my rock since I arrived on campus. An unwavering source of support and constant source of laughter, Lindsey has made my experience at Cortland incredible. As a friend and a role model Lindsey has shown me how to

Autum MacDonald had to say: Dr. Eierman has made a great impact on my experience at SUNY Cortland by simply including me and being a listening ear. She has made me feel comfortable enough to open up about my life experiences and barriers that have presented along my journey to graduation. I have been fortunate enough to discover a great interest in conservation genetics because of Dr. Eierman and her passion in research. She has a great deal of influential and personable traits that I admire.

Shanara Mack had to say: Kate Polasek has always been there for me and has always helped me navigate my way through this campus and life. Without her help, I would not have been able to accomplish most of the things that I have at SUNY Cortland. She counsels me, advises me and is just a fantastic human being.

Raheemah Madany had to say: Professor Carie George has significantly impacted me, during my time at SUNY Cortland. She's been amazing, thoughtful, intelligent, and caring in all the courses I've taken with her and has pushed me to be the best person I can be. Outside of the professor, student role, we've built a wonderful friendship. I appreciate all that she's done for me.

Laura Marte-Genao had to say: Fernando De La Cruz has been someone who has pushed and motivated me to do better academically and as a person. He has shown me what love, loyalty, and commitment truly is and made my experience in SUNY Cortland one that I will never forget.

Cassidy McCrea had to say: My relationship with Eryn Griep began in Residence Life two years ago, when we became Resident Assistants in the same building. Eryn was, and is, a go-getter. Confident, strong, and intelligent, Eryn was someone who I admired and wanted to emulate. We became close very quickly and I now consider her to be one of my best friends. I am very grateful to know such a wonderful woman and to have her present my Kente stole.

Katera McKay had to say: Scott Anderson made a positive influence on me because he's the first professor to recognize and tell me my talents as a student. He also encouraged me to join the Peace Corps.

Leslie McKay had to say: Valerie Moise has made a positive impact in my experience as a SUNY Cortland student, because I was all alone and depressed when I transferred Spring 2018. She helped me settle in, motivated me, and inspired me to take a path less followed in any situation that I am in. She never gave up on me, even when times were hard for her she was always by my side. She always had a positive view regardless if the situation was negative. I've achieved, flourished, and became academically successful because of her. She never gave up on me and I thank her each day for that.

Shannon McLeod had to say: One faculty member that has had a positive impact on my experience at Cortland is Dr. Ducey. He was the first professor I had for a class in my major and he is one that I still go to for a level head of advice. Because of him, I know what to expect from an educator, and I am inspired to become one myself. Dr. Ducey exemplifies what it is to be a great teacher, counselor, motivator, and I aspire to be one as great as him in the future.

Melissa Mera-Fernandez had to say: Yan Salcedo- he is a great manager. Very compassionate and understanding. Really gets to know his employees

Andres Miranda had to say: Anne Burns-Thomas has been a major factor in my success at Cortland. She has always believed in me and what I could accomplish as soon as she shook my hand for the first time. Anne believing in what I could do, helped me gain confidence in myself.

Tanna Mohammed had to say: Cori McKenzie is a professor who has made a positive impact on me during my experience here at SUNY Cortland by always encouraging future teachers to be culturally relevant and inclusive. I appreciate her for making my experience creative and meaningful.

Valerie Moise had to say: CJ has been my best friend since freshman year. He has always been the force that has pushed me to be the best that I can be. He supports me like no other and helps me believe in myself as much as he does. He up lifts me in all areas of life and through all the all-nighters I promised I would never take. CJ has been mostly the positive outlook on my life these four years and I couldn't have asked for a better best friend and boyfriend! Thank you!

Cyrenius Nelson had to say: Meghan Henley, as my Residence Hall Director, has helped me develop my leadership skills and steer me towards different opportunities that have fostered my passion for Higher Education. I wouldn't have grown into the person I am today without her support and guidance.

Sierra Noel had to say: Professor HaiYing Wang. I have taken her classes every semester since I started at Cortland. She encourages her students when they are having trouble, dedicates time to helping her students understand and is a nice person. She also encourages us to travel if we are inquiring or to do study abroad programs. She has changed my perspective of China and the Chinese culture and is one of the reasons why I want to teach English in China.

Tatiana Nolen had to say: AnnaMaria Cirrincione has mentored me for the last 2.5 years. She has helped me get involved in NUFP, campus organizations, campus trainings, the Diversity Conference, and the Diversity Retreat. AnnaMaria has been a guiding and supportive force since I came to campus. She is someone I look up to as a dominating woman with a big heart. I will never forget all that she has done for me.

Re'Gene Oates had to say: A person who has made a positive impact in my life is my counselor. I began seeing her in the fall semester and being able to talk to her and express my feelings without judgement really helped me get through a lot of things.

Ryane O'Conner had to say: Brittany Washington, former RHD of Hayes Hall. As a RA I was always putting my mental health on the back burner, working to solve others' problems before my own. Brittany taught me that self care is important to be a better help for others. Without her, I would not have been able to make it through my junior year of college. Mental health is something important that we need to shed light on and work towards destigmatizing.

Kaitlyn Marie Otero had to say: Mr. G has been my mentor for the last 3 years. He has encouraged me to invest in myself and what truly makes me happy, in order to live a fulfilled life. His advice, support, and encouragement have helped me to be successful during my time here at SUNY Cortland.

Briana Pantor-Isaacs had to say: Peter Ducey because no matter how many times I've went to his office feeling like there was no way to pick myself up from the challenges I encountered, he always helped me wipe my tears and push myself 1000 times harder to come out on top. He has been understanding since the first day I stepped foot into his office as a freshman and has always had my best interest at heart to very last days here at SUNY Cortland. I couldn't have had a better advisor to help me through these four years.

Jordan Pedroza had to say: My advisor, Peter Han, as he has helped me so much in getting where I am today, and specifically getting through college. Being that no one in my family went to college, I really didn't know how things worked, and I didn't know what it would be like. Having Peter Han as my advisor, he always made the process smoother, and always had my best interest at heart with EVERYTHING he advised me on!

Jennifer Phanord had to say: Lima Stafford has made a positive impact in my experience as a SUNY Cortland student because of her encouraging words to me. She has been there for me since I stepped foot on campus and she has always believed in me. Even when I was ready to quit, she would always be the one to tell me, "It's okay, just keep pushing." Anything I needed, I just knew Lima was only a phone call away and she always answered me. That is the reason why I call her my mom because she has a loving and caring heart of a mother.

Quashawn Prince had to say: Professor Stephen Clark was/is a great painting professor and he pushed me to be my greatest self. He gave me some great advice, he's also a great listener. He always made me feel comfortable as a student and as a young adult. He always laughs when I call him Dr. Clark

Giovanni Quinones had to say: Dr. James Hokanson, currently teaching and researching in Spain, has had a positive impact on my experience as a SUNY Cortland student. He allowed me to become the URAP student for the Kinesiology Department beginning my junior year. It changed my dull experience in academics to a brighter one. This door opened up opportunities for me, that not everyone is lucky enough to have. I learned so much in this position, that I can take forward with me to PT School. That is why I appreciate the Kinesiology Department and the other professors I also got to collaborate with. Thank you Dr. H!!

Loren Rapaport had to say: Here at Cortland one person who has made an impact on my education career was my roommate for the last three years Elizabeth Miller. I met her while we were tripled in a room freshman year and ever since then we have gone through the highs and lows of college together. I could always count on her to help me when college is getting the best of me and to make sure I'm always staying entertained.

Kevin Robinson had to say: Dr. Seth Asumah, has always pushed me to fulfill my potential as a leader. He has also served as a mentor and a role model while helping me mature not only into a better leader, but a better man as well! I will forever respect and cherish Dr. A for all his hard work and help.

Ryan Roldan had to say: Lawrence Brady for all his guidance, assistance, and words of wisdom (Professor and Advisor).

Kalen Rucker had to say: One person I would say posed a positive impact on my SUNY Cortland experience is my friend, Bianca. We met during my sophomore year when, due to roommate dilemmas I stayed in a low-rise, and Bianca happened to be tripled in a random room next door for her first year. In terms of her impact on my Cortland experience, no matter what happens she's always been a great friend, great listener and a person I really trust to go to when I need advice.

Isabella Santos had to say: Brandon Williams, my stole presenter, is a SUNY Cortland alumni that made a positive impact in my SUNY Cortland experience. Brandon was my freshmen RA and one of my first friends at Cortland. He has always been super supportive and he is one of the reasons I applied to be an RA, which as been a real positive experience at Cortland. Brandon is a hard worker and he encouraged me to be my best.

Sadat Sayon had to say: Professor Han. I always thought he was an aggressive and strict professor and always wanted everything done right and perfect, not knowing he were preparing me for the real world and all the challenges I will be facing.

Ashley Skoblow had to say: My roommates and friends have made the most significant impact on who I have become today. They have known me since the very beginnings of my college career and have seen and helped me through rough patches in my life. They have also been some of the most beautiful, genuine humans I have met on this earth and I am so blessed to have crossed paths with them.

Megann Smith had to say: One of the biggest influences I had while SUNY Cortland was Katt Reilly. She was my Residence Hall Director for three semesters when I was a Resident Assistant. However, she was much more than just a Residence Hall Director to me. Juggling classes, social life, and being an RA easily became very overwhelming for me and Katt was the one person I could rely most on to help me through some of my toughest times. I genuinely do not know how I would have made it through these last few years at Cortland without her unwavering support.

Itiana Stone-Smith had to say: My roommate Kristin Bonfanti has made an extremely big positive impact on my experience here at SUNY Cortland. She has made a positive impact by being an amazing friend and roommate. She is always there for me no matter the situation and is one of my closest friends. We have seen each other at our best and worst and our friendship means a lot to me. I know my time at Cortland would not be the same without her.

Laasia Swift had to say: Susan Barnett, has made a positive impact on my me during my time here at SUNY Cortland when I didn't believe in myself, she pushed me to be my best. If it wasn't for her I would have gave up on finishing what I came here to do at C-State.

Patricia Taveras had to say: The staff of Educational Opportunity Program have made a positive impact in my experience as a SUNY Cortland student because they taught me how to be an successful college student. They encouraged me through every step and were always available. For this, I thank them.

Danielle Thomas had to say: My friend Lexi and I met the Fall semester, and although it hasn't been long, we've built a great friendship. She helped encourage me to try out for the step team. She's always trying to do things and venture out on campus with me, and she's really been the reason why I've had such a great ending to my time here at Cortland.

Daryn Thomas had to say: Lima Stafford, Wouldn't stop inviting me to school events until I showed up to one.

Fanny Turbi had to say: Lewis Rosengarten. This man always believed in me, even when I didn't believe in myself and was always there when I needed help with anything. He was always supportive of anything I did and always had a smile on his face while doing it.

Sophie Umansky had to say: Dr. Burke has greatly impacted my Cortland experience. She always encourages me to believe in myself- whether it's in or out of the classroom. Dr. Burke has the ability to inspire students to be the best version of themselves. Not only is Dr. Burke a mentor of mine because of her intelligence, but her eagerness to help others is truly incredible. Next semester, we will be working together to help the community in her Community Innovation Lab course. I have taken risks and stepped out of my comfort zone because of Dr. Burke, and I will always be thankful for her.

Chris Venant had to say: Lima Stafford and Brandon Manning have been important role models here for me at SUNY Cortland, always keeping me accountable for my word, and making sure that I continue to challenge myself as well as always being professional with everything that I do

Saynyenoh Warner had to say: Eunice Miller (faculty) for always believing in me, praying for me and helping me believe in myself.

Breanna Washington had to say: Dr. John Sosa, because he got to know me beyond a student-professor relationship. He learned about my culture, my beliefs, and my values. Anne Burns Thomas, because she encouraged me in the C.U.R.E. Program and in other aspects of my undergraduate career. She always encouraged me to be conscious and aware of societal standards and trends.

Veronica Washington had to say: Professor Seyfried was a great help to me through my two years at Cortland. Even though I had him during my first semester, he was always encouraging and willing to help me with anything I had troubles with.

Jermaine Watkins had to say: Lima Stafford. Through all 4 years she has pushed me to work past my limits when it comes to school work and balancing my personal life. I don't know what I would have done without the support.

Ilan Watson had to say: Professor George Vazenios, has been an exceptional professor to me my whole time at Cortland. Regardless of the class time, the weather or any other factors that may bring someone's morale down, he always greeted the class with a smile and jokes. He consistently made it his mission to make class enjoyable for everyone. Every class with Vazenios was a great experience, and something you looked forward to, even if you didn't enjoy the curriculum.

Alexandria Wean had to say: Professor Weatherby. No matter the day, he always has a smile on his face. He knows when to crack a joke or get serious. Always sharing his amazing stories and tid-bits about his life showed me no matter where you are in life, you always have something to look forward to. Also, he gave me the power to look at things differently, to see it from many different angles. He is an amazing man, with so many amazing accomplishments that I will strive for a full life like him.

Kathryn White had to say: Katherine Bonafide-Foster for always pushing me to be the best me and push through my hardships.

Emily Widdlkind had to say: Shena Salvato was my professor for three out of my four semesters here at SUNY Cortland. Initially after meeting her at orientation as a transfer student, I immediately felt more at peace. I deeply appreciate her passionate energy and inclusion in the classroom. She also has genuinely taken the time to connect with me and has given me a safe space through many of my mental hurdles over these past two years. Shena has also connected with me with exchange students on campus, whom I have created great bonds with. I am grateful that while on the Raquette Lake trip that Shena led, I was given the opportunity to release negative energy.

D'monte Woody had to say: Coach Maurice Hart has impacted me on the football field by giving me the tools, techniques and proper coaching to be the best player I could be. While being an excellent coach his greatest impact has come off the field. Reminding me to always work hard and to not let society shape me. Also, being there to talk to me at my lows and troubled times. I've learned many things from him and he is an amazing coach and better person.

Sesquicentennial Celebration

Our community recognizes a century and a half of academic, athletic, cultural and career excellence.



In 1868, Ulysses S. Grant was elected president of the United States. The world's first traffic signal was installed in London and the element helium was discovered.

And in the quiet, upstate New York farming community of Cortland, construction began on the Cortland Normal School. Its initial graduating class of 10 students all went to work as teachers in area schools.

No one at the time imagined the single-building school would evolve over the next century and a half to become a sprawling college campus of nearly 7,000 students specializing in more than 50 different fields. No one dreamed that Cortland's first handful of graduates would one day become a legacy of 80,000 alumni, more than 75,000 of whom are still alive and contributing to society as teachers, coaches, doctors, attorneys, scientists, business executives, artists, entrepreneurs and much more.

The story of how the humble Cortland Normal School of 1868 evolved into the nationally respected SUNY Cortland of 2018 is a tale of vision, determination, camaraderie and compassion. It's a brightly colored tapestry comprising obstacles overcome, excellence achieved and ensured access to high-quality education for all students, regardless of background or circumstance.

It's the story of the SUNY Cortland community — alumni, faculty, staff, students, neighbors, family and friends — and we will be telling it throughout this, the College's Sesquicentennial, year.

Together, we have overcome hardships; devastating fires, tough economic times, global wars and seismic American culture shifts. The shared values that unite us occasionally weakened, but never broke.

The College may no longer require students to study classical Latin, but they can earn degrees in geographic information systems, sport management and musical theatre. And they continue to thrive in a vigorous and challenging academic environment that emphasizes putting theory into practice and prepares them for the working world. Our concerns about athletics have advanced from worrying that the pillars dotting our gym floor weren't ideal for the new sport of basketball to focusing on winning national titles in one of Cortland's 23 varsity sports.

Most importantly, our hearts remains the same. Students are still at the center of all that we do.

In that spirit, we invite all members of the extended SUNY Cortland community to join us in celebrating the College's Sesquicentennial — a century and a half of excellence.



Thank you to the Sesquicentennial Committee for providing funding to help support this year's Kente Celebration.

A Special Thank you to:

Jermaine Watkins, Chris Venant, Julianna SantaMaria, Kailey Merrill, Avery Haberman, Cristian Padilla and Glennys Cordero for all your work with the Kente photos.

To the Alumni Engagement Office for their contributions to the gifts this evening.

To the President's Office—Thank you, President Bitterbaum, for all the support you show our office and students.

To the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs—Thank you for all the support and guidance you have given our office and students.

To the Institutional Equity & Inclusion Office—Thank you for your contributions and support.

To Empire Interpreting Service, LLC for your services this evening.

The Kente Committee —AnnaMaria Cirrincione, Dana Smith, Lima Maria Stafford, Seth Asumah, Vicki Wilkins, Patricia Martinez, Christina Christie, James Felton, Jonah Reardon, and Vierende Placide.

SAVE THE DATE

July 11-14, 2019

KENTE/VOICE OFFICE REUNION

RedDragonNetwork.org/reunion

We welcome all alumni who participated in Kente, the Voice Office or Multicultural Life organizations to come back for Alumni Reunion 2019. Help the Multicultural Life and Diversity Office staff unveil the recently renovated Voice Office in Corey Union and the Calvin Louis-Juste '09 Memorial Award plaque. Join your friends in the Corey Union Function Room for a “late night party” and help conclude the year-long Sesquicentennial Celebration.

Interested in being part of the Kente/Voice Office Reunion committee? Please complete the Reunion form on RedDragonNetwork.org/reunion.



SUNY
Cortland
MULTICULTURAL LIFE
AND DIVERSITY