AKD Award Ceremony

On Wednesday May 4th, 12 new undergraduates were inducted into Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), the Sociology Honor Society, at a ceremony and reception put on by the Sociology Department. Professor and Chair Andrew London welcomed everyone and Professor Gretchen Purser gave her perspective on Sociology. Professor Marjorie DeVault, the Director of Undergraduate Studies, gave the History and Mission of AKD. The Initiates for 2011 are:

Tashera N. Bolds  
Katherine J. Boom  
Bobbi Borsellino  
Jenna K. DeMarco  
Letecha C. Dixon  
Allison R. Forbes  
Ella Froggatt  
Christina Levin  
Whitney C. Mercer

Mollie M. Pleet  
Bryan S. Sakakeeny  
Morgan A. Wahlstrom

(See picture on Page 4)

Tashera N. Bolds and Letecha C. Dixon are graduating with Distinction in Sociology. Whitney Mercer is a Remembrance Scholar.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Senior Symposium

The Senior Symposium was held on Wednesday May 4th. It was followed by a luncheon. The presenters were:

Kimberly Segal, “Social Interaction through Facebook: Total Destruction or Just a Change?”


Breanna Kelly, “Misunderstood: Experiences of Contemporary Bisexual Youth.”

Katherine Salisbury, “Fighting for Others: Allies’ Responses to LGBT Discrimination.”

Letecha Dixon, “For the Love of a Man: Young Women’s Perceptions of Fathers and Romantic Partners.”

Dorothy Shuldman, “First Steps: One Woman’s Socialization into the Public Health Field.”

Kiana Calder, “Community Responses to Teen Pregnancy.”


Continued on Page 3
CONGRATULATIONS are in order for the following accomplishments of our students:

**Gokhan Savas** passed his comprehensive exams.

**Tre Wentling** successfully defended his dissertation proposal and is ABD.

**Karen Macke** received the dissertation award for next year.

**Liat Ben-Moshe and Tre Wentling** received the Outstanding TA Award from the Graduate School.

**Avery Tompkins** successfully defended his dissertation “Intimate Allies: Identity, Community, and Everyday Activism Among Cisgender People with Trans-Identified Partners” and has accepted a Visiting Assistant Professor position at Indiana University in South Bend. Avery also received the LGBT Community’s Foundation Award for Outstanding Contributions by a Graduate Student at the annual Rainbow Banquet.

**Li-Fang Liang** received the doctoral prize from the Maxwell School – “Constructing Migrant Care Labor: A Study of Institutional Process and the Discourse of Migration and Work.” Marjorie DeVault is her advisor.

**Fumilayo Showers** was a panelist on a Future Professoriate Program Seminar in March on “Strategies for Succeeding in Your Ph.D. Program,” which was sponsored by Career Services and the Graduate School.

**Bernadette White** gave a talk, sponsored by SU’s South Asia Center, entitled: “Framing Culpability: Discourse on Farmers’ Suicide.” This was based on research for her dissertation.

**Gokhan Savas** published “Social Inequality at Low-Wage Work in Neo-Liberal Economy: The Case of Women of Color Domestic Workers in the United States” in Race, Gender & Class.

**Elizabeth Mount** received the Goekjian grant and will use it towards her research examining the possibilities for radical activism via foundation-funded LGBT rights TNGO’s in South India.

**Stephanie Crist** defended and passed her dissertation with distinction “‘It’s the Resources’: Work, Governance, and the Institutionalization of an Emergency Food Network.”

Faculty Presentations, Publications & News

**Steve Brechin** gave a talk for SU’s Geography Colloquium entitled: “Government, Civil Society, and Nature Protection in Belize, Central America: Moving Towards a More Participatory Democracy?”

The talk explored civil society connections with government and conflicts over nature protection activities in Belize.


**Prema Kurien** was promoted to Full Professor this Spring.


Senior Symposium Continued

**Belinda Nyarku**, “Those Who Can Teach: Reflections of Current and Former Secondary Education Students on Their Experiences in the Education Programs.”


Pictured Left to Right:

Professor Marjorie DeVault
Kiana Calder
Breanna Kelly
Tashera Bolds
Dorothy Shuldman
Tara Nelson
Allison Glass
Belinda Nyarku
Katherine Salisbury
Kimberly Segal
Leticha Dixon
Gillian Small (in front)
Alumni News

Lauren Eastwood, Assistant Professor of Sociology at SUNY Plattsburgh and Ph.D ’04 was at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo when the earthquake struck Japan.

“Fortunately I was out in the open but witnessed the 30+ story office buildings swaying back and forth,” she wrote in an email. “When the first tremor hit, it was quite slight. Then things got more dramatic. There was a general rumbling noise, and the sound of things moving—some people sat down to prevent themselves from falling. There were giant cranes on the top of some buildings that are under construction—the cranes were swaying back and forth and I was worried they would fall. People were evacuated from their office buildings very quickly, and most people had hard hats and small backpack disaster kits. They are prepared for earthquakes here the way we’re prepared for snowstorms.”

Lauren had to walk about 12 miles to Kichijoji, a suburb of Tokyo where she was staying with friends. The whole trip took about seven hours she said.

Lauren is in Japan for research on a project she has worked on for two years. It is partly funded by the Japan Foundation.

“It is truly amazing and frightening to feel as though the ground is completely undulating beneath you to the extent it is difficult to stand. It was like being on a ship in rough waters—buildings and trees were swaying as well.”