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Alpha Kappa Delta, Flyer, 2000

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Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society

In January 1964, the name of this college was changed from Cortland State Teachers College to the State University of New York College at Cortland. With this change, the school became an undergraduate college of Arts and Sciences rather than a teacher-training institution. One of the first new programs established after Cortland's official transformation was a major in sociology/anthropology.

At that time, the education major honorary society was the only one on campus. And, since the physical education program here was well established, there were many athletic awards, but little recognition for those who distinguished themselves academically. Distinguished Teaching Professor Rozanne Brooks and Distinguished Service Professor William Rogers embarked on a campaign at that time to establish academic honor societies on this campus.

Ours, of course, is Alpha Kappa Delta. It was founded in 1920 by Dr. Emory S. Bogardus who was Chair of sociology at the University of Southern California. Shortly thereafter, chapters were established at the University of Wisconsin, Northwestern University, and the University of Kansas. At present, there are over 400 chapters in nearly every state -- and also in Canada, China, Washington, D.C., the Phillippines, and Taiwan.

Thirty-five of these chapters are in New York State. The first one was established at Cornell University in 1925. The Syracuse chapter was organized in 1928. In 1953, Buffalo University became the first State University of New York campus to have a chapter. SUNY Albany followed in 1967. SUNY Cortland was the first SUNY undergraduate college to be awarded an AKD chapter. It is the New York Nu Chapter. There are now 35 AKD chapters in New York State, including 12 within the SUNY system.

Alpha Kappa Delta derives its name from three Greek words which mean "humankind," "to investigate thoroughly," and "for the purpose of service." Translated freely, they constitute the purpose of the organization which is "to promote human welfare through the association of a fellowship group interested in developing scientific knowledge that may be applied to the solution of human problems."

Alpha Kappa Delta is a democratic, non-secret society. It is open to sociology majors who earn an average of B or better in the major as well as their cumulative average. Members are elected once a year after the Fall grades are in.