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AISA takes a trip to D.C. to learn about cultural heritage

Discussion with those trained in NAIS at IU, part 2 of 3

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5th Annual Traditional Powwow comes to Bloomington to celebrate Native American Heritage Month, 2015

A look at events coming up in second half of Spring Semester 2016



Native Women's Leadership Trip Visits Washington, D.C.



During Spring Break 2016, a group of Native young women from Indiana University traveled to Washington D.C. for a week of sightseeing and cultural education. Highlights of their trip included: a visit to the White House, a VIP tour of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian, and a private tour of the ethnographic collections at the National Museum of Natural History collections facility in Suitland, Maryland.

"It was a great learning experience!" said Gaby Anderson, current American Indian Student Association (AISA) president. Anderson was most excited about the trip as a new learning experience for her. "I really wanted to see how other museums and cultural intuitions work with Native people and handle their collections," she said. This past year, AISA has become

far more active than in past years, and Anderson was very appreciative that the First Nations Center gave her, along with five other undergraduate students, this opportunity to visit the nation's capital. She told me that many of the current students involved with AISA were interested in learning as much as they could about their own cultural heritage. They saw this trip as a great chance to learn more.

Anderson, who has ancestry that represents four tribal groups—Kiowa, Caddo, Cherokee, and Creek—was most interested in learning all she could about the Kiowa while she was in Washington, D.C. She said she is working on designing a pair of moccasins for herself right now, and was looking to be inspired by any Kiowa beadwork, moccasins, or boots that she was able to see. "This trip," said Anderson, "gave me the opportunity to learn more

Committee on Native American & Indigenous Studies

Christina Snyder (History), chair
snyderch@indiana.edu

Newsletter Editor: Nicky Belle

Email: nbelle@indiana.edu

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Ballantine Hall 544, Indiana University

1020 E. Kirkwood Ave
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Dakota Woods (Omaha), holding a pair of Omaha moccasins, at NMNH Collections in Suitland, Maryland.



Left: Nicky Belle, Gaby Anderson, Heather Williams, Keisha Lipscomb, Lane Maddox, Bethany Stoller, Dakota Woods, Janina Moser at the SI National Museum of Natural History. Right: Heather Williams and Keisha Lipscomb examine a Puyallup woven, beaded belt at the NMNH collections facility.

about my own tribal heritage that I don't currently have access to."

Keisha Lipscomb (Navajo), a sophomore originally from Gallup, New Mexico and current AISA member, was also very happy with the opportunity to travel to such a large facility to see their ethnographic collections. "I loved that we had the opportunity to see objects from each person's tribal background, and that we each got the opportunity to spend one-on-one time with the things that were specific to our own nation," said Lipscomb. "We could get up close and examine the items." Dorothy Lippert (Mississippi Choctaw), NMNH staff, guided the tour through the collections. Prior to the visit to the collections, Lippert requested from Heather Williams, FNECC secretary, a list of tribal backgrounds of the AISA members who would be on the trip. Lippert wanted to make sure that each individual had the chance to have first-hand experience with the objects that relate to their cultural heritage.

Heather Williams (Puyallup) organized and served as group leader for the trip. Williams is very happy that these young women had the opportunity not only to

bond and grow as a group of friends and see all of these great historic objects, but also were given the chance to experience all these aspects of Native life and culture within the context of the Nation's capital. "It is far too often the case that Native culture is talked about within the context of history books and as having happened in some sort of distant past," said Williams. "Getting to meet Native people who work in Washington, D.C., getting to hear about the places and the ways in which contemporary Native policy is made, and getting to experience the art and architecture that was created by some of the most important Native artists of our time really helped to contextualize our Native experience. For these young women, they got to see that being Native doesn't have to mean that you are part of some separate ethnographic past. Being Native is modern, and even huge cities like Washington, D.C. have places carved out just for us."



Above: Keisha Lipscomb, Gabby Anderson, and Heather Williams examine a carved Puyallup pipe



Above: Ben Norman (Pamunkey) begins the VIP tour through the NMAI exhibits.



Above: Gaby Anderson and Janina Moser photograph a pair of Kiowa child's boots. Left: Keisha Lipscomb photographs Navajo silver jewelry held by Dorothy Lippert.

NAIS Beyond IU – Part 2 of a 3 part series

In the Fall 2015 issue of the Native American and Indigenous Studies newsletter, the introductory article presented a summary of discussions the author had with several individuals who were trained in Native Studies (and related fields) at Indiana University and who are now working in the field. Due to the popularity of this article, the NAIS newsletter will present the information collected from those interviews/questionnaires in full transcript format over the course of this and the next issue.

Individuals' answers will be presented sequentially, so that the reader may be able to read the story of each contributor without interruption. Half of the data will be presented in this Spring 2016 issue, and the second half will be presented in the Summer 2016 issue.



Sebastian Braun

1. What year did you graduate from Indiana University?

I graduated in 2004.

2. What was your major/minor/area of study?

Major: Anthropology, Minor: Folklore

3. What is your position now?

Associate Professor of Anthropology and Director of American Indian Studies, Iowa State University.

4. Is this your first job? If not, what other positions have you held?

Visiting Assistant Professor of American Indian Studies (UND); Senior Lecturer, Classical Studies and Anthropology (U Akron); Assistant Professor, American Indian Studies (UND); Associate Professor, American Indian Studies (UND); Chair, American Indian Studies (UND)

5. How do you feel IU/what you learned at IU has prepared you for what you are doing now?

It definitely prepared me for what I am doing now, but it did not really prepare me for what I have been doing. Working for a department of American Indian Studies, I had to learn a lot on the spot - anthropology did not prepare me for the legal intricacies of the Indian Health Service, or the details of the Cobell lawsuit. However, it provided me with the sound foundational base from which to proceed. Also, I pretty much got my first job because my advisor has been known to produce extremely reputable anthropology in collaboration with communities. The reputation of your advisor is worth more, and in the negative can cost you more, than the name of your university.

6. What advice would you give to those who are in Native Studies, or a related field, and who are about to finish up/ enter the job market?

1) Getting a tenure-track job in this environment is happenstance and luck. There are a hundred other, equally qualified candidates for any job. In other words, do not present yourself as if you are the chosen one when you get that campus visit. You cannot control the process - all you can do is control yourself. Be nice, courteous, interested, aware, educated, and professional.

2) Be honest about who you are and what you want to do. It serves nobody if you get a job because you misrepresented yourself / your work

NAIS Beyond IU, *cont.*

/ your future intents / your character.

3) Build your own reputation. Some people like to hang onto coats and labels. In the end, it is your work that counts. Present at conferences. Do interesting work (by that, I mean, useful, collaborative, viable, grounded). Be humble. Respect your elders. Share. Of course, many people have built careers by being abusive, loud, obnoxious, and by shooting down one strawman after another. But in the end I would hire somebody who knows how to work well with people and produces good work a hundred times over somebody who name-drops, presents himself as a spiritual leader and insists that everybody else is a colonizer. Academia is like a Native community. Gossip makes sure people behave. Do not embarrass yourself - it is hard to shake that reputation.

4) Be open-minded. I never wanted to end up in North Dakota, but there are institutions in posh cities that are much worse. I never thought I'd end up in American Indian Studies, but it taught me a lot. Be involved. Do I really want to be on the student activity committee? No - but it will teach me something about how institutions work. Be nice. I do not have to tell the guy who just delivered the worst, most essentialized, and historically inaccurate presentation I ever saw that this is so. First, let me see if everybody else in the room noticed. See above. Academia is a small community. Be critical—of yourself, your discipline, your field, your knowledge, your position in the room.

5) Do not pretend to know everything - especially not those things you do not know. Having a PhD does not make you a good researcher, smart, or a great teacher. Proving that you can deliver on your extraordinary luck of getting a tenure track job is what is called the tenure period.

6) Do your research beforehand so you know the basics. Investigate the institution, the faculty members, and their approaches. If you do not like what you see, have an escape plan - that means, produce enough good work and be nice enough that you will be hired somewhere else.

On Native Studies specifically: There are many departments and programs of American Indian Studies who prefer to hire people with PhDs in traditional disciplines, and for various reasons. Understand those disciplinary approaches and be ready and willing to have an informed conversation about them. Do not assume that the people on search committees, or your future colleagues, or the people you will have to get along with, share your likes and dislikes of disciplines, approaches, and people. Do not assume they know or do not know your referees. Do not assume they know or do not know your research specialization.

7. Are there any other bits of wisdom you would like to share with the reader?

Don't be afraid of change. Be ready to learn. Be curious. Be ready to work harder than you ever did. Listen to your elders even when you might not like what they have to say. In hindsight, they were usually right. Keep in touch with your friends from grad school. Everything else will follow. Oh, and have a life. If you don't like what you are doing, do something else.

Teresa Nicholas

1. What year did you graduate from Indiana University?

I graduated from IU in 2014.

2. What was your major/minor/area of study?

Major in Anthropology, minor in NAIS



NAIS Beyond IU, *cont.*

3. What is your position now?

Postdoctoral research fellow and project manager for the NSF-funded project "Learning NAGPRA" at IU.

4. Is this your first job? If not, what other positions have you held?

This is my first full-time job.

5. How do you feel IU/what you learned at IU has prepared you for what you are doing now?

IU has many strengths in humanistic area studies, and I am very glad that I was able to learn the histories of many minority groups around in the world as they work to revitalize and preserve their cultural heritage. I had the opportunity to learn from a variety of scholars in different fields of study, such as archaeology, ethnohistory, genetic studies, and nonprofit management, which has helped me consider how the topic of my current postdoctoral research impacts different professions and communities in interconnected ways.

6. What advice would you give to those who are in Native Studies, or a related field, and who are about to finish up/ enter the job market?

Area studies helps you explore the importance of contextual knowledge and the recognition of a common humanity, and those skills can be applied in many ways. Think about who you want to serve and in what setting, and that will help as you start your search.

7. Are there any other bits of wisdom you would like to share with the reader?

It's hard to give really general job advice, but if NAIS keeps an alumni list-serv I think it'd be great to encourage more mentoring between alums and current students.

Dave Posthumus

1. What year did you graduate from Indiana University?

I graduated from the Anthropology Ph.D. program in 2013.



2. What was your major/minor/area of study?

Anthropology major, Linguistics minor. I also taught courses in Anthro and NAIS at IU.

3. What is your position now?

Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Native American Studies at University of South Dakota.

4. Is this your first job? If not, what other positions have you held?

This is my first job.

5. How do you feel IU/what you learned at IU has prepared you for what you are doing now?

I think that working with Ray DeMallie and Doug Parks at the American Indian Studies Research Institute (AISRI) prepared me to work in fields focusing on American Indian culture, language, and history. I think the training from Ray and Doug at AISRI, both in the classroom and beyond, was the best possible training I could get anywhere in the world for my focus.

NAIS Beyond IU, *cont.*

6. What advice would you give to those who are in Native Studies, or a related field, and who are about to finish up/ enter the job market?

Finish your dissertation. Apply for as many relevant positions as possible but focus more on those that are a good fit. Remind your letter writers, gently, of course! When you get an interview, do your research and get to know the institution and faculty like the back of your hand. Make sure your job talk reflects the best and most exciting of your current research. The website The Professor Is In was very helpful. Most of all, don't give up!

7. Are there any other bits of wisdom you would like to share with the reader?

A finished dissertation is better than a perfect dissertation. Focus on the end goal, and believe in yourself!

In the Summer 2016 issue of the NAIS newsletter, we will hear more from contributors Katie Burnett, Tony Krus, Rebecca Nathan, and Kelsey Noack Myers. We appreciate all of their comments and their willingness to take time to offer invaluable insight into the real world of Native American and Indigenous Studies!

IU Traditional Powwow Brings Dancers, Singers to Bloomington



Red Sky Wapepah (L) and Clifton Goodwill (R) enter the dance arena during grand entry at IU 5th Annual Traditional Powwow.
Photo Courtesy of Paula Stapley

To help celebrate Native American Heritage Month, the First Nations Educational and Cultural Center at Indiana University hosted its 5th Annual Traditional Powwow November 7-8, 2015. For the second year, the powwow took place in Alumni Hall in the Indiana Memorial Union, and attracted singers, dancers, participants, and spectators from not only the Midwest, but also Native communities across the United States.

"I think it really says something about our powwow--this is our 5th year and it has been growing every year," said Heather Williams, member of the

powwow committee and secretary at the FNECC. "Each year that we put on our powwow, it helps to more strongly solidify our community involvement. Not just at the University, but also within the larger Native community."

As with previous years, the IU Powwow Committee carefully chose the head staff they invited based on their successes in the powwow world as well as being considered respected members within their own traditional dance societies and communities. This year's head staff featured Head Man Dancer, Russell Tallchief, an Osage Southern Straight dancer

from Yukon, OK, and Head Lady Dancer, Amber Cleveland, a member of the Ho Chunk Tribe of Wisconsin. Tallchief, an active member of the Osage In-Lon-Shka War Dance Society, is currently the Director of Student Engagement, Inclusion, and Multicultural Affairs at Oklahoma City University and is the nephew of Maria Tallchief, America's first Prima Ballerina. Cleveland is an internationally known dance champion, having won dance competitions throughout the United States and Canada. She won this year's People's Choice award on Powwows.com for Best Overall Female Dancer.

In addition to these accomplished dancers, the 5th Annual Powwow included some of the region's most well known singing groups. Eyabay, a contemporary style drum group from Minnesota, served as this year's host Northern Drum. This was their first time attending the IU Traditional Powwow, though some of the members had attended in the past having traveled to Bloomington with other singing groups. Eyabay became extremely popular in the 1990s and spent years atop the ranks of the most sought-after powwow singing groups in the nation. Among their accomplishments are: 'Best Drum Group' 1993, 1994, and 1995 at United Tribes Powwow in Bismarck, North Dakota, and 'Overall Singing Champions' at Schemitzun-"The World Championship of American Indian Song and Dance" in 1995, 1996, and 1998.

Omaha White Tail, from Macy, Nebraska, served as the Host Southern Drum for this year's powwow. They are also a well-known singing throughout the powwow circuit and across Indian Country. Omaha White Tail won this year's People's Choice award on Powwows.com for Best Southern Drum. They also won First Place at Gathering of Nations-"North America's Largest Powwow" in 2012. Omaha White Tail has traveled to Bloomington before, serving as Host Southern Drum at Indiana University's inaugural contest powwow over ten years ago. Tim Grant, head singer of Omaha White Tail said he is very happy to return to Bloomington to work with the FNECC's powwow committee and is happy to see the direction the dance has taken.

The third singing group in attendance at the 5th Annual Powwow was Ho Chunk Station, a family of dancers and singers from Lyndon Station, Wisconsin. Rick Cleveland and his sons have spent years traveling all over the country singing and dancing. This was Ho Chunk Station's third year attending the Indiana University Powwow. All of Cleveland's sons are fancy dancers and are a continual attraction at the powwow. They are becoming widely known as champion singers and dancers. Two weeks prior to coming to Bloomington, Ho Chunk Station won 2nd place in the Youth Singing Competition at Hunting Moon Powwow in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, one of the region's largest context powwows.

Mr. Terry Fiddler, originally from Eagle Butte, South Dakota, now living in Red Wing, Minnesota, served as the Emcee for this year's powwow. Fiddler also served as Emcee for the 2nd and 3rd Annual Traditional Powwows. Fiddler expressed how important he feels this powwow is for the Indiana University and Bloomington communities. This area does not have a large population of Native American people, he said. Because of this, many of the students at the University have lived much of their life not knowing the real story of American Indian people, or even that there are Native people and Native organizations on campus. The powwow serves as a concentrated performance of contemporary Native American culture and can offer a great educational opportunity for everyone who attends the powwow. Fiddler sees his job as Emcee integral to this educational approach as well. He sees his job as announcer to be more than just telling people what just happened. He spends time explaining the history and cultural motivations behind the dances and the sounds that are being performed. It is important to pass on these teachings to the future generations, so that these dances, these songs, and these practices may continue through the generations.



IU 5th Annual Traditional Powwow Head Staff and Invited Dancers (L to R): Chaske LeBlanc, Clifton Goodwill, Danita Goodwill, Amber Cleveland, Nicky Belle (powwow committee) JR Lone Lodge, Red Sky Wapepah, Tehya Wood, Russ TallChief

Upcoming Events

- **Ed Kaboutie (Hopi, Tewa) Visit to Bloomington, Eiteljorg**
 - Thursday, April 7, 2-3:30pm. Hodge Hall, Rm. 2083
 - Friday, April 8, 12-1pm. Hoagy Carmichael Room, Morrison Hall 006
 - Saturday, April 9, 1pm. Eiteljorg Museum, Indianapolis
- ❖ **FNECC 9th Annual Native American Film Festival**
 - “Playground of the Native Son” - Tuesday, April 6, 7pm. IU Cinema
 - “The Cherokee Word for Water” - Monday, April 11, 7pm. IU Cinema
- ❖ **FNECC Speaker Series**
 - Community discussion regarding IU Theater Dept. performance of “Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson” - Tuesday, April 12
 - Ricardo Higelin - Thursday, April 21, 12:30pm @ FNECC