

NAIS BEYOND IU 1 RECRUITMENT 3

A conversation with those trained in NAIS at IU, now working in the field.

IU works to recruit Native students from Navajo, Pine Ridge Reservations.

WATSON 4 FRYBREAD 5

Michelle Watson talked to us about her experiences as a new student at IU

The "Frybread Sistas of IU" win gold!



Native American & Indigenous Studies Beyond Indiana University



Indiana University has a strong history of working with and within Native communities across the United States and Canada. Beginning in the 1930s and 1940s with the work of Glenn A. Black, IU has been a place that concentrates on not only learning about the history of Native peoples of Indiana, but also contributes to the understanding and support of contemporary American Indian communities.

In recent years, IU has graduated and sent many individuals into the field who have received a strong background in Native Studies. This section serves as Part I of a three part series that connects with recent graduates from Indiana and explores their experiences in Native American and Indigenous Studies beyond Indiana University.

Sebastian Braun, PhD 2004-Anthropology, is the new

director of American Indian Studies at Iowa State University. He expressed that while he learned a great deal while at IU, one should be totally open to learning many new things while on the job. It is important to be open-minded. There are so many Native communities out there and so many different Native experiences. In regards to any information Braun would like to share with those entering the job market for Native Studies he said, "Be ready to learn. Be curious. Listen to your elders even when you might not like what they have to say. In hindsight, they were usually right."

Tony Krus graduated in 2013 with a PhD in Anthropology and a NAIS minor. Krus now works as a Research Associate at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre in Glasgow. Krus said, "IU has excellent resources that greatly helped develop my intellectual and methodological skills. I

Committee on Native American & Indigenous Studies

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

Newsletter Editor: Nicky Belle

Email: nbelle@indiana.edu

Publisher: American Studies Department
Ballantine Hall 544, Indiana University
1020 E. Kirkwood Ave
Bloomington, IN, 47405
© 2015 Indiana University



Teresa Nichols, postdoc fellow and project manager for IU's "Learning NAGPRA" project.



Top left: Katie Burnett. Lower left: Tony Krus. Above: Richie Meyers (Native Studies – SDSU), Indrek Park, Sebastian Braun (Native Studies – Iowa State), Laura Scheiber, Rebecca Nathan, Kelsey Noack Myers, Nicky Belle, Dave Posthumus (Anthropology/Native Studies – USD).

greatly benefited from the Department of Anthropology and NAIS program, but also courses focused on method and theory [that I took in my course of study].”

“The area where I’m really able to use everything I learned at IU is when I’m doing outreach events for the public,” said Katie Burnett, PhD 2013-Anthropology, NAIS minor. “In my daily life, I pay particular attention to the many letters I have to write to the 12 tribes we consult with on Section 106 projects.” Katie now works as a lead archaeologist in the Mojave Desert for a company called Redhorse Corporation—a federal contractor for the Department of Defense.

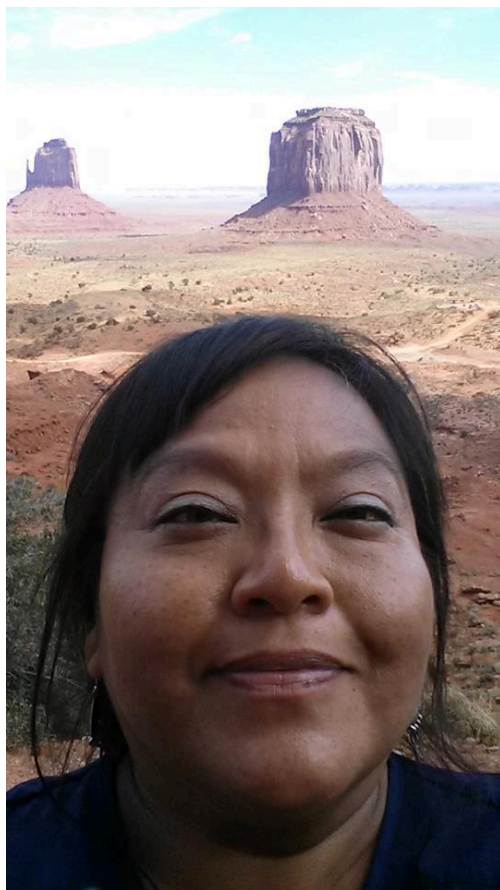
Teresa Nichols, PhD 2014-Anthropology, NAIS minor, now works as a postdoctoral fellow and project manager for the “Learning NAGPRA” project at IU. Teresa deals with various tribes and tribal entities as part of her position. “IU has many strengths in humanistic area studies, and I am very glad I was able to learn the histories of many minority groups around the world as their work to revitalize and preserve their cultural

heritage.” Her training in NAIS gave her the opportunity to work with and learn from a variety of scholars, all who work with contemporary American Indian communities. “All of this,” she said “has helped me consider how the topic of her current postdoctoral research impacts different professions and communities in interconnected ways.”

The strength of NAIS is this interconnected, cross discipline approach that Nichols mentions. NAIS has given all these individuals a solid background in learning how to work with contemporary Native communities and training that prepares them to help answer the important questions and deal with the important issues that are facing many of these tribal communities today.

Part II, which will be published in the Winter 2016 NAIS Newsletter, will offer a further presentation of these interviews and, as well as a more in-depth discussion of the current state of Native American and Indigenous Studies.

Native Student Recruitment Efforts at Indiana University



Left: Davina Two Bears at Monument Valley, AZ. Above: Students at Red Cloud Indian School, Pine Ridge, SD work on filling out the Indiana University on-line application.

Over the past year, the First Nations Educational and Cultural Center (FNECC) and its parent organization, the Office of the Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs (OVP-DEMA) have been focusing their efforts to work on the recruitment of Native American students to Indiana University. IU prides itself on supporting diverse populations on campus and working to support students from underrepresented minorities. At 0.1% of the approximately 46,000 students on campus, the American Indian/ Alaskan Native/ Pacific Islander population is by far the smallest of all minorities at Indiana University. In early October, two FNECC representatives traveled to different Native communities in the U.S., on both the Navajo Nation reservation in Arizona and Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, to help with the effort to increase these numbers.

This year Davina Two Bears, a PhD candidate in the Anthropology Department, is working as a Graduate Assistant for Recruitment for the First Nations Center. Her job is to work with Native American high school students to both encourage them to apply to Indiana University and to help

them complete their university and scholarship applications. Two Bears traveled to Arizona to attend college fairs and visit various high schools on the Navajo Reservation with the express plans of trying to talk with Navajo students about pursuing a college degree at IU-Bloomington.

While in Arizona, Two Bears visited Tuba City High School to attend a college fair on behalf of IU, and also gave presentations to students at Monument Valley High School in Kayenta, Window Rock High School, in Window Rock, and Chinle High School, in Chinle, AZ. She chose these locations because of the large number of Native students who attend these schools—these are among the largest high schools on the reservation—and also because she had already made connections at the schools. Last spring, Two Bears met with several of the teachers and counselors at both Tuba City and Window Rock, and they invited her to their college fairs this October.

(continued on page 6)

New Student Spotlight: Michelle Watson



Michelle Watson, a 3rd semester sophomore transfer from Haskell Indian Nations University, recently sat down with Nicky Belle to discuss her experiences as a new addition to the Native community at Indiana University.

"I really like the academic challenges that I'm faced with at Indiana. Here, I want to try harder in my classes and it gives me more motivation to learn." Watson is a secondary math

education major in the School of Education. She is also minoring in Athletic Coaching. Watson had been enrolled at Haskell Indian Nations University for two years prior to making her decision to transfer to another university. Haskell, located in Lawrence, Kansas, has been working to educate American Indian students from across the United States since 1884.

Though Watson very much enjoyed her time at Haskell, the school did not offer her intended major, elementary education, and she did not find her course work to be as challenging as she had hoped. "I found that I was breezing through my classes. I thought they could've been more challenging, and I wanted something more." Watson's decision to transfer was very last minute, she said, deciding just at the end of Spring semester 2015 to leave Haskell to pursue her degree at another institution. After looking at several other options, including Ft.

Lewis College, in Durango, Colorado and Diné College, in Tsaile, Arizona, Michelle made her final decision to transfer to Indiana University-Bloomington because of the academic opportunities that would be afforded to her.

Watson was born in Tuba City, Arizona, and spent much of her childhood living in Chonto, Arizona on the Navajo Nation reservation. She then moved to Indiana with her mother and completed her high school education in Eminence, Indiana before moving to Kansas for college. One of the main reasons Michelle was interested in attending Indiana University was because of a unique opportunity offered to students within the School of Education. The Global Gateway for Teachers-Navajo Nation Program offers students in the School of Education the opportunity to live and work on the Navajo reservation at various schools in Arizona, New Mexico, or Utah. A goal of this program is to introduce students to a new cultural experience and to help them become members of the community, to learn to be involved on multiple levels—to participate as both a teacher and a friend to the students with whom they are working.

"I really like that Indiana University gives me this opportunity to connect back to the Navajo reservation. I'm interested in this because after I graduate, I plan on going back to the Rez to teach. [Student teaching] will give me a good head start to go back there now and get used to working in a school on the reservation." Beyond this, Watson is very happy with what she has experienced socially at Indiana University, and says that everyone in the Bloomington community has been very nice to her since she has been here. "I'm thankful that the First Nations Center, too," she continued. "The FNECC gives me a place to hang out and it's a good place to meet other Natives on campus."

The Frybread Sistas of IU Bring Home the Golden Frybread

On October 24, 2015, the Eiteljorg Museum of Native Americans and Western Art in Indianapolis hosted the Indiana Collegiate Fry Bread Cook-Off. The event celebrated frybread as a cultural phenomenon among Native communities and featured a viewing of the film “More Than Frybread” prior to the start of the frybread tasting and competition. This movie details the experience of 22 frybread makers at the Arizona Frybread Championship.

This year’s registered participants included “The Frybread Makers of Purdue,” a team representing the Native American Student Association from Purdue University and “The Frybread Sistas of IU” from Indiana University’s First Nations Center. The format of the competition was straightforward—each team presented their frybread to the audience, the crowd tasted each team’s entries, then everyone voted for their favorite batch of frybread. After counting the votes of the approximately 30 individuals present, it was announced that The Frybread Sistas were this year’s champions of the statewide competition. Their trophy—the coveted Golden Frybread.



“It was really exciting going up against the reigning intercollegiate champions,” said Heather Williams, FNECC employee and member of the Frybread Sistas. “Purdue is one of our biggest in-state rivals and we knew they were going to bring their A-game to the contest.”

“It was a great time to connect with one another as a team, that’s what I enjoyed,” said Davina Two Bears, Frybread Sistas’ team captain. “And I think people really liked the variety,” she continued. This year, The Frybread Sistas prepared two batches of Navajo-style frybread. One featured blue corn meal and the other, granulated honey. “We made A LOT of frybread and it was it was pretty much all gone, just a few pieces were left at the end, so they must’ve really liked it!”



Above: The Golden Frybread Award.

Left: The Frybread Sistas of IU with the Golden Frybread trophy.

(L to R) Davina Two Bears, Heather Williams, Sky Lipscomb, Keisha Lipscomb, Shannon Turner, Michelle Watson, Terri Miles. (Eiteljorg)

(Recruitment, continued from page 3)

"It just made me feel good to talk to the students," Two Bears said. "Some of the counselors and teachers said they like the way I talked to the students. They don't have many people who come into the school, recruiters in particular, and talk to the students like that. Explaining that I'm one of them, that I came from the Rez, just like they did. ... And that they can follow their goals, just like I am."

A key to Two Bear's success is that she IS one of them. Like the majority of the students Two Bears met with, she too is from the Navajo reservation. She had concerns about whether she'd be able to afford college, whether she would be able to handle moving away from home and support herself and her children. "The students were quite impressive," she told me. "I wanted to emphasize that if they had school or career goals, that they should follow through with them."

Two Bears expressed that wherever she went students seemed to express the same concerns about applying to college and attending college: "What's it going to cost me?" and "How many Native students are on campus?"

"I felt a little bad selling Indiana because I know a lot of these families are struggling to make a living and the majority of these students I was talking to come from families who could never afford the tuition. I felt like I was dangling this unattainable thing in front of them." Talking about what Indiana University could do to help with recruitment, Two Bears said, "Waiving tuition fees for Native American students, like several other universities are starting to do, or even only charging in-state tuition for Native students would be a significant help!" In regards to the future of recruitment from Native communities, Two Bears said that IU is doing the right thing. Continuing with recruitment from Native communities and trying to increase the number of students on campus is important. "It's very hard for a student to leave their home community and not have another community to be part of, to get support from while they're away at college."

Upcoming Events

❖ **Maria Tallchief Panel with Russ Tallchief**

Thursday, Nov. 5, 6:30-7:30pm, reception to follow. Global & Int'l Studies-Rm. 1118

❖ **Pre-Powwow Talk: Ashley Falzetti**

Friday, Nov. 6, 12pm | Mathers Museum, reception to follow at FNECC.

❖ **Indiana University 5th Annual Traditional Powwow**

Saturday Nov. 7 - Sunday Nov. 8 | Alumni Hall, IMU | Doors open 11am Sat. & Sun.

Visit the IUPW Facebook page for more info: <https://www.facebook.com/IU.Powwow>

❖ **Cherokee Double Wall Basketry Workshop with John Johnson**

Saturday Nov. 14, 10am-5pm. @ FNECC. Please contact FNECC (855-4814) to register.

❖ **FNECC Speaker Series**

- Ben Levine - Monday, Nov. 2, 12:30pm | Helping endangered language communities
- Alan Burdette - Wednesday, Nov. 11, 12:30pm | Archives of Traditional Music