



NATIVE BRUIN

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Letter from the AISC Director

Angela R. Riley (Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma)
Director, UCLA American Indian Studies Center
Professor of Law, UCLA School of Law

To all *Native Bruin* readers, I write this message on behalf of the American Indian Studies Center as we celebrate our students' successful completion of their respective degree programs. We congratulate them and their families on the joyful conclusion of this stage of their educational journey. Our students and larger American Indian community are a central part of UCLA's educational mission and a testament to its excellence as a premier research university. It is a privilege to join with you all in commemorating this event.

Throughout this academic year, many new developments have taken place that we anticipate will be of interest to our friends and supporters, and which we believe will strengthen the position of American Indian Studies at UCLA. Of particular note, we are excited to report that Dr. Belinda Tucker has been appointed as Vice Provost of the Institute of American Cultures (IAC), which will oversee all the ethnic studies centers at UCLA. In the spring of 2013, we will co-host a major public launch to celebrate the re-envisioned IAC. We hope you will attend!

As you are likely aware, UCLA is home to some of the country's most influential and respected scholars writing and working in American Indian Studies today. Their commitment, excellence, and engagement have made American Indian Studies at UCLA one of the highest ranked and most respected programs in the field. I am delighted to report that a focal point of our work this year has been to recruit additional scholars to foster new research in the field and to provide a robust intellectual learning environment for our students. The Center is currently in the midst of a search to add another faculty member to American Indian Studies at UCLA. Additionally, the Center has been peripherally involved in a second faculty search funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Such hires allow us to continue to be on the cutting edge in terms of national and international research in American Indian Studies and global indigenous issues. This, in turn, uniquely situates us to lead the country in recruitment of exceptional students and scholars going forward.

We continue to produce cutting-edge scholarship in the field. Under the leadership of Professor Duane Champagne, the *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* is thriving and retaining its prominence as one of the top-rated peer-reviewed journals in American Indian Studies. This last year our publications unit also published *The Indian Civil Rights Act at Forty*, an edited volume that presents the research and insights from some of the nation's most esteemed scholars on civil rights in Indian country.

Notably, in July 2011, the Center established one of its most innovative research initiatives, Partners for Justice: UCLA Institute for Criminal Law in Indian Country, which provides support for the national Indian Law and Order Commission's critical examination of criminal justice in Indian country. In supporting the national commission, Partners for Justice engages in research and analysis of Indian law and policy, focusing in particular on jurisdictional, institutional, and fiscal challenges to securing the safety and welfare of tribal communities.

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RAIN Project Director: Theresa Stewart

By Hayley Iwig (Assiniboine Sioux)

UCLA alumnus Theresa Stewart comes from the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians and Tohono O'odham. She started working for Retention of American Indians Now (RAIN) as a peer counselor when she was a student, and came back after graduation to work as project director, a position she has held since 2009. Here she speaks about her experiences with the American Indian Student Association (AISA) and RAIN, both as a student and a staff member, and the importance of the work that AISA and RAIN do.

When did you first decide to become involved with AISA?

When I first got admitted to UCLA I received a phone call from AISA congratulating me and letting me know about the amazing programs and services available to American Indian students. At first I was overwhelmed with all the information, but I was also relieved that there was a Native community at UCLA that would help me transition easily from high school. AISA invited me to the UCLA Pow Wow to meet everyone, so I went with my parents. It was great to see all the students and the great family that they created among each other. I was really shy and nervous to meet everyone that weekend, but my parents were thrilled to meet everyone.

When we left that day I talked to my parents about going to UCLA and I compared it to other schools that we had visited. The students in AISA were welcoming—they wanted me to be there as much I wanted to be there. My parents also felt safe sending me to a school where they knew I would have friends and a "family" to support me. All these things were important to me. When I started my freshman year I immediately started attending AISA meetings and got involved in any way that I could. The first big project that I took on as a freshman was Vendor Coordinator for the UCLA Pow Wow.

When did you first decide to become involved with RAIN?

I first started my involvement in RAIN as a RAIN student, meaning I had a RAIN peer counselor and attended quarterly RAIN events as a freshman. Having the support from a fellow student really helped in my transition to UCLA. It also helped to have someone to talk to when I was homesick, having problems with my roommate, having a bad day, or even a good day. I had such a good experience with RAIN in my first year I wanted to provide the same experience for other students, so I applied to be a RAIN peer counselor my second year.



Theresa Stewart (middle), surrounded by RAIN Staff: Yvette Aragon, Mariana Macias and Don Hatori as well as Retention Coordinator Emilio Hernandez at the Fall SUN Mentorship event.

Why do you think it is important to support the retention of Native students?

It is very important to acknowledge that admission and retention go hand in hand. It is first and foremost essential to promote the academic preparation of and outreach to American Indian students. We would not have RAIN or a need to address retention issues if Native youth were not admitted to UCLA. I feel that retention services, such as RAIN, are essential to an American Indian student's success. American Indian students deal with a lot of unique cultural, social, and personal traumas that can affect their academic success. As a result, American Indian students have the lowest retention rate of any other ethnic community in the nation. At UCLA we are the anomaly in that we currently retain 100% of our American Indian students. College is a place where

future community and tribal leaders are being developed. I think it is essential for our future leaders to find the bridge between tradition and institutional education, and to take this education back to their communities.

What is your favorite part of your job? Why?

The favorite part of my job is seeing my students graduate. Every year we have the American Indian Graduation, which is hosted by the American Indian Student Association, the American Indian Studies Center, and the American Indian Studies Interdepartmental Program.

The American Indian Graduation is a culmination of several years of work for undergraduate and graduate students. I love seeing our UCLA family come together, meeting everyone's families, and celebrating everyone's achievements. Most of all, I am happiest that there is a space for our Native students to celebrate with their family and friends in a culturally relevant way.

In what ways has RAIN impacted your life, both as a student and as a staff member?

If it weren't for RAIN I would never have graduated from UCLA, and for that reason I will forever be indebted to RAIN as a UCLA alumnus. My experience with RAIN has been a blessing and has resulted in a large passion for working in American Indian retention. I have not only gained a huge skill-set, but also been able to give back to the community by working with current UCLA students.

What are some things that RAIN has accomplished in your years as project director that you are particularly proud of?

I am most proud of the development of the RAIN Wellness Program. Wellness is an innovative approach to retention. It demonstrates that retention services are not always individually based, such as peer counseling. Also, it supports the idea that American Indian students work well in collective spaces. The Wellness Program would not have been possible without the support of AISA members and current RAIN students.

(continued on page 8)

AND OUTREACH

American Indian Student Association Membership 2011–2012

| Name | Position | Tribe |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Kenneth Ramos | President | Kumeyaay–Barona Band |
| Kendra Buck | Vice President | Navajo |
| Brianda Ulloa | Treasurer | |
| Miriam Rodriguez | Secretary | |
| Emilio Hernandez | Retention Coordinator | |
| Kendra Sitney | Outreach Coordinator | Mississippi Choctaw |
| Tyla Va-ai | Pow Wow Director | Blackfoot/Samoan |
| Yvette Aragon | Youth Conference | |
| Andre Coronado | Youth Conference | |
| Fairuz “Gladys” Dakam | Pageant Coordinator | Lakota |
| Cesar Huerta | Co-Historian | |
| Yahaira Navarro | Co-Historian | |
| Sara Cook | NAGPRA Rep. | Lakota |
| Theresa Jean Stewart | RAIN Project Director | Lusieño/Tohono O’odham |
| Don Hatori | RAIN Staff | Native Hawaiian |
| Mariana Macias | RAIN Staff | |
| Frank Herrera | RAIN Staff | Chamorro/Filipino |
| Hayley Iwig | RAIN Staff | Assiniboine Sioux |
| Teresa Caro | AIR PD | |
| Breeanna Brewer | AIR Staff | |
| Maria Ceja | AIR Staff | |
| Laika Roy | AIR Staff | |
| Mark Eli Ellison | AIR Staff | Ute-Zuni |
| Tyson Walker | Member | White Mountain Apache |
| Selina Stasi | Member | Native Hawaiian |
| Navarre Miles | Member | |
| Sofia Munoz | Member | |
| Liz Fasthorse | Member | Lusieño–Rincon Band |
| Ellen Harju | Member | Cowlitz |
| Angel Fulgencio | Member | |
| Vanessa White Eagle | Member | Apache/Wasco |



AISA at Alcatraz Landing during the Winter Retreat.

AIGSA Update

By Katie Keliiaa (Yerington Paiute and Washoe)

On behalf of the American Indian Graduate Student Association (AIGSA), happy spring quarter!

It's been a busy year for AIGSA and we're happy to announce that last month we initiated the first-ever AIGSA Brown Bag Series. The series was created in the spirit of collaboration allowing undergraduate and graduate students



Second-year American Indian Studies M.A. student, Peter DuBois (Yupik Eskimo), presents at the first American Indian Graduate Student Association Brown Bag event.

to present their research projects and receive feedback and support from fellow students. The core groups involved are the American Indian Student Association (AISA), the Native American Law Student Association (NALSA), and AIGSA.

At the beginning of this quarter, we'll host our second Brown Bag event with presentations from 2L, Madeline Soboleff Levy (NALSA), and first-year master's student, Lawrence Mojado (AIGSA). If you are interested in presenting your research at the next event, please send an abstract to ckeliiaa@gmail.com.

It's a bittersweet quarter for soon-to-be graduates, gearing up for their last weeks at UCLA. Whether you are putting the finishing touches on your exams or still jamming out your thesis, we wish you the best of luck. Have a lovely summer and congrats to the class of 2012! 🍷

Updates from AIR

By Kendra Sitney (Mississippi Choctaw)

AISA's American Indian Recruitment (AIR) project has had a great academic year so far. This year we have continued with our weekly tutoring/mentoring sites at TANF Long Beach, Commerce, and UAI Central High School. At these sites AIR staff members provide academic tutoring, mentoring in college preparation, and cultural empowerment to K-12 students. This year we have also been able to see growth in our community college component (CC), which focuses on increasing the number of American Indian community college students who transfer to four-year universities.

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Congratulations to the champions of the 13th Annual Youth Conference and Basketball Tournament!



Winning boys' team at the 13th Annual Youth Conference and Basketball Tournament: Rain Makers.



Winning girls' team at the 13th Annual Youth Conference and Basketball Tournament: California-Nevada.

The Wiyot Tribe Repatriation

By Fairuz Dakam (Oglala Lakota)

On March 14, 2012, members of the Wiyot Tribe of Northern California visited UCLA to retrieve the mandible of an ancestor. A private ceremony was held, followed by a welcome luncheon for the Wiyot Tribe, followed by a discussion. Former Tribal Chairwoman and elder Cheryl Seidner spoke on behalf of the tribe. She spoke passionately of her ancestors, how important this repatriation is to the Wiyot people, and the continued battle to take home ancestors' remains currently housed at various institutions. This event celebrated the culmination of a long, hard battle that had been going on for almost a decade. Instrumental in this process were two UCLA faculty: Carole Goldberg, vice chancellor of Academic Personnel and professor of law, and Wendy Teeter, lecturer in American Indian Studies and curator of Archaeology at the Fowler Museum of Cultural History.

The mandible was part of a biology professor's collection, but was donated to the Fowler Museum upon his death. Because the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) requires federally funded museums to document and publicize their inventories, the tribe was able to begin the road to repatriation. The only information that was kept with the mandible was a label that said "Eureka, Calif." and "Wellcome Historical Medical Museum." The latter phrase refers to a museum based in the United Kingdom. An anthropologist later traced the mandible to a dentist who collected remains from Eureka, California. The specimen collection point was at the 1860 Wiyot Massacre site.

The first attempt to repatriate the mandible failed, due to the University of California's Office of the President's decision that prior research on the mandible did not prove cultural affiliation. However, after NAGPRA regulations were changed to allow remains to be repatriated to tribes of the geographic origin of the remains, even if they are culturally unidentifiable, Goldberg presented arguments that ultimately resulted in the successful repatriation of the mandible to the Wiyot Tribe.

The Wiyot woman to whom the mandible belongs finally made her journey home, and the Wiyot have recaptured a piece of their spirit as a tribe. This truly was a battle won, but the war still carries on. ☘



Cheryl Seidner, (Wiyot) speaking at the celebratory repatriation event hosted by the American Indian Studies Center.

The Pow Wow Effect

By Kendra Buck (Navajo)

Every spring the smell of frybread wafts into the North Athletic Field as the blades of grass are hit with waves of drum beats and dancers colorfully move across the arena. It is, of course, none other than the American Indian Student Association's Annual Pow Wow. This year's pow wow was directed by second-year design/media arts major, Tyla Va'ii. As always, the program is student-run and student-directed with the support of AISA alumni and staff. It is important that we continue to hold events such as the pow wow because for many UCLA students, American Indians are invisible. Through this social gathering we are able to make our presence aware to the on-campus community; it is not only a cultural exchange, but an opportunity to educate those outside the American Indian community. Many continue to look forward to this event, and they have every right to do so because our pow wow is for the community, both on- and off-campus. It offers something for young and old, Native and non-Native. ☘

RIGHT: Ms. UCLA Pow Wow 2012–2013 Whitney Baugher (Cahuilla), Cheyennena Bedonie (Diné, Blackfeet, Powhatan), and past Ms. UCLA Pow Wow 2011–2012 Nora Pulskamp (Diné) participating in the Ms. UCLA Pow Wow honoring dance.



LEFT: The Ms. UCLA Pow Wow Pageant Committee and AISA President standing next to Ms. UCLA Pow Wow.

New Academic Coordinator for the American Indian Studies Program

By Fairuz Dakam (Oglala Lakota)

Clementine Bordeaux was hired as the new academic coordinator for the American Indian Studies Interdepartmental Program in August of 2011. Bordeaux, a tribal member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, is from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. She received a bachelor's degree in theater at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and a master's degree in communication through the Native Voices Indigenous documentary filmmaking program at the University of Washington in Seattle. Her interests include Native film, fiction and nonfiction, and the topic of representation of Native peoples in media and popular culture.

As academic coordinator, Bordeaux provides academic counseling to undergraduate and graduate students in the Interdepartmental Program, as well as assists the Interdepartmental Program faculty, especially the chair. She also collaborates with the American Indian Student Association and its Retention of American Indians Now and American Indian Recruitment projects. As Bordeaux states, she is "overall, working for the program and supporting the program and Native American community on campus."

The highlight of Bordeaux's work at UCLA so far has been working with the students. "The students have been incredibly welcoming and supportive in my transition," says Bordeaux. She is interested in seeing the Interdepartmental Program become its own department and "shifting the focus of American Indian Studies to global indigenous issues."

When asked about the future, Bordeaux states, "I would really like to see a more collaborative and connected community for the American Indian Studies Program as well as open lines of communication between all of the programs that serve the American Indian community, and of course, to see more Natives on campus in different departments and job positions." She would like to say to those reading this newsletter, "I've been extremely humbled to be in this position and to be welcomed by the undergraduate population and to see the potential the graduate students have in changing academia. I have been impressed overall with the advocacy and activism of the Native student population in addition to the intelligence and diversity in our faculty." She is also happy to be able to support this space that has been created in academia for Native people. 🐾



Clementine Bordeaux, in regalia. This year, Bordeaux served as Head Woman at the 27th Annual UCLA Pow Wow.

AISC Staff Spotlight

By Rebecca Hernandez Rosser (Mescalero Apache)

Rebecca Hernandez Rosser is the assistant director of the American Indian Studies Center (AISC), and also serves as the management services officer (manager of the unit). This dual role gives her responsibilities for both managing the budget and aiding in the planning of programming, as well as working closely with Director Angela Riley and other staff members on the overall mission of the Center.

She has worked at the AISC for five years. Rebecca was hired after completing her doctorate in American Studies at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Her dissertation, "Past is Perfect in the Present Tense: Exhibiting Native America in Museums and Culture Centers," examines the inherent complexities in the public representation of culture(s)—including how describing and defining Native American objects aids in the construction of Amerindian identity.

Rosser considers herself an "accidental" scholar because she never set out to earn an advanced degree, but rather enrolled at Pasadena City College after high school with the hopes of gaining more training in the arts. Painting is her first love and she considers herself very fortunate to have formally studied the studio arts as an undergraduate. She also has an M.F.A. in Exhibition Design and Museum Studies as well as an M.A. in American Indian Studies. When asked what inspired her to go to college and get a Ph.D., Rosser says that it was the people (both faculty and staff) at the various schools she attended who persuaded her. Each step of the way someone took the time to help her move along in the process and encouraged her to keep moving forward, even when she was intimidated or worried she wouldn't fit in.

Rosser would like to teach again in the future because she would like to share her knowledge and connect more with students. If she won the lottery tomorrow, she would build a home in the mountains with an adjacent art studio, return to painting, and be an artist full-time. Her beloved dog Rey and husband Jay would accompany her. 🐾



Rebecca H. Rosser, Assistant Director and MSO of AISC.

Basket Theft (Story)

By Fairuz Dakam (Oglala Lakota)

It was 2:30 a.m. She had been waiting for hours for the security guard to doze off at his post at the front of the museum. Remembering the reason for this crazy idea gave her an adrenaline rush. They stole it! I'm taking it back! She began to creep silently through the front entrance. It took her five minutes just to open and close the main door without making a sound. After tiptoeing past the guard and several feet away for safety, she began a sprint toward the one place her heart was set on. She stopped short at the Native American basket exhibit. Hundreds of baskets were on display. Baskets from tribes from the East coast to the West coast. Each basket was unique in shape, color, design, and age.

She carefully scanned the exhibit for the basket she had seen earlier. Finally she found her grandmother's basket. She always remembered the story her grandmother had told her. Her grandmother had woven a beautiful basket, white with black outlined diamonds overlapping each other in a design that was like a snake spiraling from the center of the basket outward. It had taken her grandmother more than a year to finish this basket, the first she had ever made. It was supposed to be a gift to her very own grandmother who had taught her the skill. As the tradition held, the first basket a person made must be given away. Before she could gift the basket, it had been stolen from her family's hut. It had never been known what had happened to the basket until today. Basket weaving was a skill passed down generation to generation, but as time passed and Westernization became more and more dominant, the tradition weakened. To this day, only a few people of the tribe knew the art of basket weaving.

She looked at the basket, and could feel the age and wisdom of over sixty years within the basket. This basket was a time capsule of her grandmother and the story of her ancestors. She wished she didn't have to steal the basket. There was a good chance she would be caught. Second-guessing herself, she then remembered the

conversation she had had earlier that day with the museum curator.

After her life-shocking discovery, she had told the curator that the basket had been stolen and that it belonged to her grandmother. The curator responded by saying that the museum had bought the basket many years ago from an old couple who claimed they had bought it from another unknown person. There was no evidence of theft, according to the curator. She told him that she was confident the basket was her grandmother's stolen basket. He told her that she had no evidence and the basket belonged in a museum. Its value was too great for the curator to let it go to her.

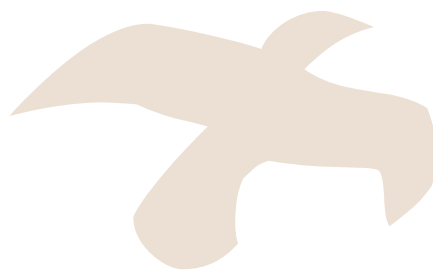
Too much time was passing. Just take it! She grabbed the basket, wrapped her sweater around it, and ran. She ran, aimlessly, until she found the front entrance. When she slammed the door, the sound woke the security guard and he set off the museum alarm.

She didn't stop running, nor ever looked back. She ran straight into the darkness until she knew she wouldn't be found.

That morning, with the basket, she visited her grandmother's grave and said a prayer. She kept the basket safe and its location a secret, with the intention of telling only her family and children its legacy and how it was a symbol of their cultural endurance and familial pride.

She could have been you.

[Author's note: *Basketry is not traditional to my tribe; however, through research and an encounter with a basket such as the one in the story, I was inspired to write this creative story to express issues of stolen artifacts and repatriation issues among Native Americans.*]



The Tool

By Sara Cook (Lakota)

Given the proper materials
I will
carve into each curve of
spontaneous thought,
I'll
dissect a two-word exchange,
bit lips,
a held back smile
I'll
wonder why the pigeon-toed
many are
more self-conscious or
more hesitant or
ready to wage war on an unusual
lower leg structure,
maybe,
they're reaching destinations
quicker
but I'm only after why
timely's not desired.
Given
no
proper materials,
my toes curve in at just the same
angle –
like the neanderthal relief
of losing the tool.

EVENTS

("Letter" continued from page 1)

Community engagement has historically been a key component of the Center's work and remains so today. We are pleased to be a supporting partner of TAMIT (Teaching and Mentoring Indian Tarahat) with the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and to have worked with the American Indian Community Council and United American Indian Involvement on the youth-oriented photography project, InSight. And we were honored to host a NAGPRA repatriation event with the Wiyot Tribe this spring. In these and other ways, the Center continues to support scholarly research that links the academy and the community, including hosting talks given by respected elders and activists. These are just a few of the projects that the Center has undertaken this year, and we look forward to maintaining and strengthening our community ties moving forward.



As always, we remain highly supportive of and proud of our exceptional students, who represent the future leaders of the field. We have continued the Center's long-standing practice of supporting students through the Annual American Indian Youth Conference, the annual UCLA Pow Wow, the Native Bruin, graduation, and student research.

The American Indian Studies community at UCLA is truly unique and is poised to become an even more vibrant intellectual force when the new hires join the faculty next year. The Center has long been at the core of this dynamic group, and we thank each of you for the role you've played in ensuring the Center's longevity and success.

Megvetch (Thank you).



("RAIN" continued from page 2)

What do you hope to do after working at RAIN?

After leaving RAIN I will be attend graduate school and pursue a master's degree in education.

[Editor's note: *Congratulations to Theresa Stewart for her acceptance into the UCLA Master's Program in Education!*]

("Updates" continued from page 3)

The CC coordinators are developing a Native Summer Intensive Transfer Experience (SITE) in collaboration with the Center for Community College Partnerships (CCP) to address the needs of Native transfer students. AIR hopes to have the first Native SITE this summer and hopes that the efforts will continue past this summer. We are also excited to see the expansion of our presence in the reservation community through the Higher Education Awareness (HEA) initiative; not only has HEA strengthened our relationship with Sherman Indian High School, but it has also expanded to more school reservations in the Southern California area. Finally, we would like to congratulate one of our students, David Streamer, on being accepted to UCLA. 🍷

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

For upcoming events, visit the following websites:

AISA <http://www.nativebruins.com>

AISC <http://www.aisc.ucla.edu>

IDP-AIS <http://www.americanindianstudies.ucla.edu>

- ❖ Youth Conference & Basketball Tournament
- ❖ AISA and AIGSA Frybread Sales
- ❖ Brown Bag Presentations
- ❖ RAIN Workshops
- ❖ AIR Site and Outreach Visits
- ❖ UCLA Pow Wow
- ❖ ... and much more!



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