

NATIVE BRUIN



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Editor's Message

By LittleDove Runningbear

I want to start off by saying what an amazing year this has been. Before I arrived at UCLA for my first quarter as a transfer student last fall, I had many doubts and worries. I wondered if I had picked the right school, where I would fit in, and if I would get adequate support. As I am writing this now, I realize that all of those worries were unwarranted and everything has turned out better than I could have imagined.

Although at the time I had no idea what my UCLA career would look like, today, I am happy to be involved with all the amazing projects and events that the American Indian Student Association (AISA) puts on. When I heard that the Native Bruin newspaper had been out of print for some time, I knew I needed to be part of putting it back together. I am glad that all of AISA's events will be documented for future Native students who will attend the university. I feel honored that I was able to serve as editor of the newsletter this year and hope that it will continue to be published in the future.

I want to thank all the members of AISA and our project staff for always working so hard on the events throughout the year. I also want to give a special thanks to Pamela Grieman, the American Indian Student Center publications manager, for her ongoing support of the publication of this newspaper. Thank you!

On behalf of the American Indian Student Association, AISA President Cesar Barreras (Yaqui) would like to thank the Interdepartmental Program (IDP) in American Indian Studies and the American Indian Studies Center (AISC), with special thanks to IDP Chair Benjamin Madley, AISC Director Shannon Speed, the Community Programs Office Director Antonio Sandoval, and Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Michael Deluca, as well as Kristopher Kaupalolo with Student Organizations, Leadership & Engagement (SOLE). AISA is incredibly grateful for the continued support received by these great leaders, mentors, and gracious sponsors. We could not have had such an amazing year without your support. 🐻

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Students raise their fists at Shannon Rivers' (Akimel O'odham, "River People") Gila River Indian Communities, youth conference workshop.

Protecting the Water at Standing Rock

From the moment I heard about the issues at Standing Rock Sioux reservation, I knew I needed to help in whatever way that I could. I soon learned I was not alone in my feelings. The American Indian Student Association was quick to jump into the action to stand up against the Dakota Access Pipeline. The president, Cesar Barreras (Yaqui), suggested that in lieu of our quarterly retreat, the members travel to Standing Rock to help support our Native brothers and sisters in the fight against the black snake.

AISA students here have had a long history of Native activism. It was clear from the beginning that this was a stand many of our students wanted to make and the planning began immediately. Twenty students, both undergraduate and graduate, took off on October 13, 2016 for the journey to the Standing Rock Sioux reservation. Upon arrival, our students jumped into action wherever help was needed. Students spent a lot of time helping to organize the many donations that the camps had received. David Streamer (Los Coyotes), Daniel Streamer (Los Coyotes), Vincent Cardenas (Yaqui), and Cesar Barreras (Yaqui) spent hours of their time building Mongolian yurts from scratch for the protectors. These were strong, warm shelters that could withstand the harsh North Dakota winter. Additionally, we were able to witness prayer and song from indigenous people who traveled from all parts of the world to protect the water.

At Standing Rock I remember seeing so many warriors. Some I knew from home, but many I met for the first time. We met people who had been there since the fight started and had seen all the destruction, the racism, and the struggle that the pipeline had brought first-hand. Yet I remember seeing so much beauty at Standing Rock. On the evening of October 15, 2016 I heard a roaring sound rolling over the hills off in the distance. I ran to the top of one of the camp hills to see what the commotion was. What I saw was incredible. Forty Native youth were arriving from over the hills to the camp after a run across the entire Standing Rock reservation. I will never forget shaking the hand of each of these young activists as the drum group sang for them in front of the rippling fire on that October night.

Standing Rock has been called the “Largest Gathering of Indigenous Nations” in modern American history. I am proud of our Native student activists here at UCLA for being a part of this history and sticking up for the rights of Native people. I send my prayers and thoughts to all the warriors who were affected by police brutality at the camp and to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. *Mni Wiconi*—Water is Life (Sioux). 🐾



AISA students unfurl flag at Standing Rock.

American Indian Students Graduating in 2017

Undergraduates

Cesar Barreras (Yaqui)
 Gabby Beeler (Choctaw)
 Nikkita Bichitty (Navajo /
 Chiricahua & Apache)
 Vincent Cardenas (Yaqui)
 Curtis Hall (Cherokee Nation)
 Haley Jackson (Dakota)
 Dreonna Johnson (Siletz)
 Kirby Lyda (Chickasaw)
 Vanessa Macademia (Huichol)
 Kris Martin (Morongo Band of
 Mission Indians)
 AnMarie Mendoza (Tongva)
 Stephen Pilcher (Oglala Lakota)
 Kaiya Richards (Tolowa
 Dee-ni' Nation)
 Mike Sutter (Northern Arapaho)

Graduates

Pauline Alvarez (Akimel
 O'odham / Tohono O'odham)
 Theresa Jean Ambo (San Luis Rey
 Band of Mission Indians,
 Gabrielino-Tongva,
 Tohono O'odham)
 Megan Baker (Choctaw Nation
 of Oklahoma)
 Yve Chavez (Tongva)
 Vanessa Cisneros
 (Saginaw Chippewa)
 Lydia Faitalia (Samoan / Tongan)
 Robert Fulwider (Confederated
 Tribes of Round Valley)
 Kelly Stewart (San Luis Rey Band
 of Luiseno Indians / Gabrielino-
 Tongva / Tohono O'odham)
School of Law
 Erica McMilin (Pomo, Wailaki)
 Simone Anter (Pascua Yaqui,
 Jicarilla Apache)
 Chad Escallier (Osage)
 Amanda Savage (Cherokee)
 Ben Myers (Pomo)
 Heather Torres (San
 Ildefonso, Navajo)

Pow Wow

By Josie Morgan (Pima)

This May, hundreds of people will come together in Los Angeles for UCLA's 32nd Annual Pow Wow. This is the second largest student-run event on campus, organized by one of the smallest groups, the American Indian Student Association (AISA). I asked the current and former Pow Wow coordinators to share what their involvement with pow wow meant to them. This year's Pow Wow coordinator, Mariko Daisey, Nanticoke Tribe of Delaware, shared her experiences and perspective on spearheading both the Miss UCLA Pow Wow Pageant and Pow Wow.

"I didn't realize how strong my native identity was until I got to college ... I'm from a very small tribe," Mariko commented. Keeping in touch with her heritage has been a way to preserve memories of her youth, as she understands now the cultural significance behind the performances. Holding such a prominent role and responsibility changed the way Mariko saw herself and her abilities.

This sentiment was also expressed by the 2016 Pow Wow coordinator, Nikita Bichitty, Navajo and Apache, who said that others' belief in her helped strengthen her own view of herself. "The most rewarding part of this was being able to plan such a big event at a school like UCLA." The chance to expand her college experience in this way wasn't something Nikita anticipated.

While the position can certainly test the students who take on the leadership in their ability to balance school and outside work, it is made easier by the collaboration of the Native community on campus, a trend within AISA. Both Mariko and Nikita revealed that while the experience may have started out as daunting, they don't regret it. It brought them closer to their heritage and propelled their skills in management and organization in a way the classroom might not have. 🐾



Three young dancers at UCLA's 31st annual Pow Wow.

Native American Heritage Week at UCLA

By LittleDove Runningbear



Our annual Native American Heritage Week was held November 6–10, 2016. Heritage Week coordinator, Dreonna Johnson (Siletz), planned several events including the culminating Native fashion show and dinner at the end of the week. The events kicked off on Sunday morning with a one-day, intensive Cherokee Nation history course. The course lasted from 9 am to 6 pm and was taught by Cherokee Nation citizens living in the Los Angeles Area and students. Student Curtis Hall, a member of the Cherokee Nation, said, "It was very informative. I heard a lot of great stories about my Ancestors, and it gave me a deeper sense of identity."

The week continued with a Standing Rock No DAPL student panel on Wednesday. The panel included students who went with AISA to Standing Rock in October.

The next Native American Heritage Week event was the Meet Your Sun Family kickoff event on Wednesday evening. The event was coordinated by the Retention of American Indians Now! (RAIN!) mentorship coordinator, LittleDove.

As part of the events the American Indian Student Association also hosted a fry bread sale on Thursday afternoon.

At the end of the week everyone came together for the Native American Fashion show and dinner. This was an exciting night where Native people came to represent their traditional clothing and regalia. Several UCLA students participated in this year's fashion show including AISA president Cesar Barreras (Yaqui), fourth-year student Nikita Bichitty (Navajo and Apache), and graduate student Thalia Gomez (Yaqui). In addition, Miss UCLA Pow Wow Auriyah Begay (Navajo) traveled from Arizona with her family to participate in the event. She displayed her traditional Navajo regalia and offered a few songs with her father who is a traditional singer. The night was a great and memorable way to finish off the 2017 Native American Heritage week. Thank you to the heritage week coordinator Dreonna Johnson for organizing the event! 🐾



Dreonna Johnson (Siletz) speaking with the 2016–17 UCLA Pow Wow Princess Auriyah Begay (Navajo).

18TH ANNUAL YOUTH CONFERENCE AND BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT AT UCLA

by LittleDove Runningbear

The 2017 three-day American Indian youth conference took place March 24–26 at UCLA. High school and middle school students came from many different tribes with their coaches and families to participate in the educationally based cultural workshops and the basketball tournament.

Basketball. On Saturday afternoon the night of basketball kicked off. Both the men’s and women’s games were fierce throughout the night. The second day of basketball started on Sunday morning, when the semifinals and finals were played in the John Wooden Center. The teams that made it to the finals played heated matches to determine the first, second, and third-place winners.

Workshops. Saturday was dedicated to the academic, wellness, and cultural workshops. Some of the topics covered were Birdsongs, Yaqui sewam (flower) making, and Native art, among many others. The keynote speaker, Robert Johnson (Native Wellness Institute), addressed the students and families, talking about healing and resilience through Native culture. In addition, UCLA students and alumni shared their experience at the university and the importance of higher education for their respective Native communities.

Results.

Young Women

Owyhee	3rd Place
Mud Ducks	2nd Place
Red Storm	Champions

Young Men

Sherman Braves	3rd Place
Arizona Warriors	2nd Place
Colorado River	Champions

Great job, teams!

A special thanks to all the volunteers, AISA, the youth conference committee, and all the contributors for allowing this event to be possible. The youth conference coordinator Daniel Streamer (Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla Cupeño) commented, “Next year’s gonna be bigger and better, and we are hoping to see even more UCLA students volunteer.” 🐾

32ND ANNUAL POW-WOW AT UCLA

May 6–7, 2017

Location: UCLA North Athletic Field
Free and Open to the Public



Head Staff:

Master of Ceremonies: Benjamin Hale (Navajo)
Arena Director: Victor Chavez (Navajo)
Host Northern Drum: Spirit Lake (So. Cal)
Host Southern Drum: Red Buffalo (Sacramento)
Head Man Dancer: Adam Loya (Gabrielino-Tongva)
Head Woman Dancer: Melinda Hale (Navajo)
Head Judge: Lambert Yazzie (Navajo)
Host Gourd/Color Guard: Golden State Gourd Society (So. Cal)
Ms. UCLA Pow Wow 2016-2017: Auriyah Begay (Navajo)

Gourd Dancing: 11am
Grand Entry: 1pm

2017 Pow Wow Committee:

Coordinator: Vincent Cardenas
Coordinator: Mariko Daisey

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(Maidu, Miwok, & Nisenan, UAIC)

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