

NATIVE BRUIN



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Letter from the Editor

By Danna Castro Galindo
(Coyaima and Natagaima - Colombia)

Kaiki! It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I invite you to read the 2023 edition of UCLA's Native Bruin. After not having released an issue since 2019, I am overjoyed that our community has come together throughout the course of this year to re-cover and re-create a space where Indigenous voices can be highlighted and appreciated by both present and future members of our UCLA and wider Native community. As a community that makes up less than one percent of the student body in the country's number-one public university, the Native Bruin manifests our right and determination to unabashedly take up space, express ourselves, honor our ancestors, celebrate our heritage, and preserve our stories.

Reading through this issue, this year, perhaps more than others, you will find a diversity of mediums, stories, and voices, and my hope is that this issue will encourage other Native voices to look at their own work with pride and confidence and know that there will be a space for them in our future issues.

Putting this issue together after years of dormancy was no small feat, and I would like to thank all of the authors and artists highlighted for making this 2023 edition a possibility. I would also like to thank the American Indian Students Association for creating a safe and supportive community for Native students at UCLA and the American Indian Studies Center for their support and funding, particularly Assistant Director Pamela Grieman and Management Services Officer Jamie Chan who helped me throughout this process. Finally, I would like to give a special thank you to my grandmother—Ana Lucia Capera—for teaching me my families' stories and being an incredible daily example of Indigenous strength and resilience. 🌿

Karei karei (thank you) and in community.

INSIDE:



AISES CONFERENCE

Page 2

AMERICAN INDIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY RECAP

Page 2

MORE THAN WORDS

Page 3

IDENTITY

Page 3

SUNRISE CEREMONY ON ALCATRAZ ISLAND

Page 4

EVENTS

38th Annual Pow Wow at UCLA

Page 4



AISES Conference

Justin Rodriguez (Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians)

Míiyuyum (Hello!), my name is Justin Rodriguez and I'm from the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians in California. As a Native American student at UCLA who's majoring in the STEM field, it has always inspired me to see other Native Americans presenting their research findings or showing something they've made that's innovative. As a member of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) chapter at UCLA, I have gained opportunities to do just that. In the first few weeks of this school year, I was able to go to the AISES National Conference in Palm Springs, California.

As a California Native it was amazing to meet other students and professionals of diverse backgrounds and perspectives from my own. From informational presentations to cultural workshops to research talks, the pride I have in Native Americans in STEM only grows when I attend these conferences. I was especially proud when I saw middle schoolers presenting their research posters, showing me that age or experience isn't a requirement for being a dedicated scientist.

As a Native American student in a microbiology major, this conference reassured me that I belong in science no matter what, and the people I met in Palm Springs that weekend were there to prove it. I give thanks to my AISES chapter for helping other UCLA Natives in STEM attend this conference; I believe we have all bonded with one another and gained reassurance and strength to persevere through our college journeys. Seeing other Native Americans succeed is the perfect motivation I need, and I look forward to making the bonds in AISES even stronger for future Native students to come.

About AISES:

The American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) is a national organization focused on substantially increasing the representation of American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, First Nations and other indigenous peoples of North America in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) studies and careers. Its goal is to encourage and facilitate Native people to be successful and respected contributing members of our vast and ever-changing global community. 🌍



AISES Chapter at UCLA won the Outreach and Community Service Chapter Award for our work at UCLA and in the LA community!

American Indian Pacific Islander Living Learning Community Recap

Camryn Redmond (Diné)

As the 2022–2023 academic year comes to a close, we're looking back at the inaugural year of the American Indian/Pacific Islander Living Learning Community. This fall, we welcomed eleven Native and PI residents onto Dykstra 8's West Wing. Under the supervision of Resident Assistant (RA) Camryn Redmond (Diné), RA Farah Abumeri, and Community Development Intern (CDI) Moala Fitu (Tongan), we've created a "real home" together, as put by resident Anjeliq Pinn. This fall, our team built the foundation for this family unit, hosting a retreat for our students to get to know each other, the Hill, and campus partners (AISA, PISA, RAIN!, and INSPIRE) who would provide another outlet of support throughout the year.

In the winter, we nurtured these relationships, singing our hearts out at a floor karaoke night together, making flower bouquets during our sustainability event, and engaging in several talking circles so we could check in with each other as the quarter flew by. Now, as we enter the spring quarter, we end with a bang and prepare for another great year in Dykstra Hall.

Our team would like to thank all those who came to our biggest event of the year, the Signature Event "When Two Worlds Collide" held April 4th, especially all those who performed on our behalf. It means a lot for our residents to see themselves and their communities represented on the Hill. After all, this is the biggest achievement the LLC can hope for: to make our students feel seen and heard. With every event hosted on this floor, years of fighting for physical presence on campus becomes a reality. For years to come, this space will continue building up Native and PI students, encouraging the creation of a culturally based community in which they can find support and thrive academically. 🌍



More than words

Su'la Herrera (Payoomkawichum)

About the Poem: More than words is a poem I've composed about bird songs that my people sing. Within the poem, I discuss what these songs represent and the meaning of them to not only myself but my people. I'm forever grateful to be able to share my thoughts on just how much weight and significance each song holds in my heart. Thank you for opening your mind, ears, and hearts.

More than words

More than just shells
 More than just rattles
 More than simple lyrics spilling from these men's lips
 These words
 These songs
 Are deeply rooted in my peoples history
 Payoomkawichum aataxum
 Sharing the journey
 Hardship
 Blood, sweat, and tears my people endured
 Finding the place we now call home
 I thank my ancestors for these songs
 These stories
 With hearing their struggles and strengths my people had to endure
 No'suun fills with compassion
 No'suun fills with sorrow
 But the most predominant emotion is gratitude
 Gratitude to the people before me for enduring those struggles
 and as a result, becoming stronger
 Through the years different people have tried to silence us
 Weaken us
 Change us
 Kill us
 But our songs show just how resilient my people are
 These songs are more than words
 But a promise, a promise to our people and everyone else
 We. are. still. here. 🌱



Author Su'la Herrera pictured above.

Identity

Marisah Wehunt (Pit River and Mvskoke (Creek))

About the Poem: This poem is to acknowledge the injustices in Indian Country. Many families struggle through disenrollment, including my own, and it's genocide within our own community.

Identity

Have you ever lost who you are
 Your rights
 Your justice
 Your community
 They took my identity
 My blood now runs cold
 We gave the proof
 We showed the evidence
 But still disenrolled
 Now do you see
 Or have any sense
 What you did and continue to do
 Is beyond injustice

My family keeps me grounded
 They carry what's left of my identity
 Pushing for justice
 It was my family's land it was founded
 You took our rights
 Now we can only fight
 Protest after protest
 I look to my cousins
 Where's our identity
 You have it in your hands

My grandfather protected his people
 He guided his community
 You took his life
 Now we have to live without him
 You cut us out like a knife
 But you can't take what he taught
 His wisdom lives on
 His words
 His passion
 His love
 But where is his justice
 Your lies took his life

We are foreman strong
 Pushing for the best
 Standing for the rest
 Always more never less
 fighting for justice

That's where we stand
 You're no different from them
 Taking our land
 Genocide within your own
 Fighting for what we can
 True colors shone
 Our identities can no longer be in your hands
 We fight
 Looking for the light
 Somewhere in sight
 Our identities will be our own 🌱

EVENTS

SUNRISE CEREMONY ON ALCATRAZ ISLAND

Lloyd Molina IV (Chiricahua Apache and Yoeme/Pascua Yaqui)



Daybreak on Alcatraz Island. Sunrise Ceremony, Ohlone Territory. November 2021



Hundreds gather in opposition to the holiday known as thanks-talking, for a day of remembrance and honoring of Native peoples across Turtle Island. Sunrise Ceremony on Alcatraz Island. Ohlone Territory. November 25, 2021



Chief Arvol Looking Horse (Lakota), 19th Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe, leads the flag guard in solidarity with tribal communities and allies from across Turtle Island and beyond. Sunrise Ceremony, Alcatraz Island. Ohlone Territory November 2022

38TH ANNUAL POW-WOW AT UCLA

MAY 6-7, 2023

LOCATION: UCLA WALLIS ANNEBERG STADIUM
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

HEAD STAFF

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:
Ruben Little Head
ARENA DIRECTOR: Victor Chavez
HEAD JUDGE: Richard DeCrane
HEAD MAN: Tso Yanez
HEAD WOMAN: Kat Yanez
HEAD BOY: Adrian Garcia
HEAD GIRL: Chevy Lane
HEAD GOURD: Steve Bohay

COLOR GUARD: Golden State Gourd Society
HOST NORTHERN DRUM: Bear Springs
HOST SOUTHERN DRUM: Shakey Town
Ms. UCLA Pow Wow 2023-2024:
Camryn Redmond

2023 POW WOW COMMITTEE

COORDINATOR: Cheyenne Faulkner
COORDINATOR: Amiee Ozuna-Scott

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and Yoeme/Pascua Yaqui)

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