



CICSC Newsletter

RESPONSIBILITY RECIPROCITY RESPECT RELATIONSHIPS

Issue No. 21: November/December 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR!



UPCOMING EVENTS



2016 CAIIF, from left to right: Joely Proudfit, Tantoo Cardinal, Wes Studi, Chris Eyre

Míiyuyam!

The new year is fast approaching and we are glad to be closing up another busy year at the CICSC. Although we are looking forward to 2017, we would like to take a moment to thank our donors, partners, and event attendees for making 2016 a great success. Our accomplishments come only with the help of our fantastic community. We recently concluded the 4th Annual California's American Indian & Indigenous Film Festival, which I am pleased to say has been the best yet! We hope to continue bringing you the best of American Indian & Indigenous film and look forward to an even greater success next year. I would like to also thank the CICSC staff, student workers, and volunteers for their tireless efforts to run the center and its events. You are all a part of the CICSC's accomplishments. Stay tuned for exciting developments in the new year!

November 16th-18th
5th Annual California's
American Indian &
Indigenous Film Festival
Hosted by the CICSC

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CICSC

ROOTED IN CULTURE,
RISING IN KNOWLEDGE



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Student Highlight

Rebecca Nogales (Cahuilla)



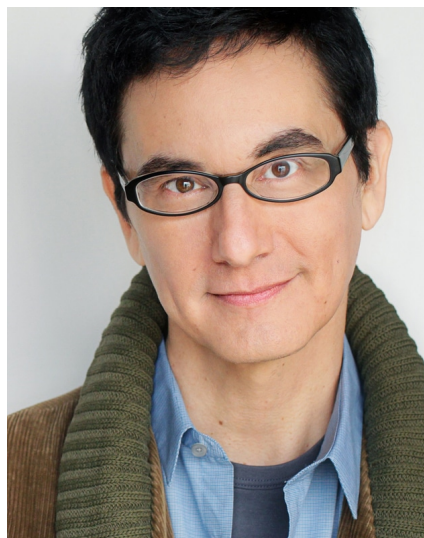
Rebecca Nogales (Cahuilla)

When asked how she would describe herself, Rebecca says that she finds herself quirky, awkward, and hilarious; students and staff at the CICSC would definitely agree. She has an outstanding personality that resonates with everyone and her compassion and humor makes for a great environment whenever she is around. Rebecca's biggest influence has been her mother. Her mother has instilled in Rebecca her fun outlook and sense of resilience. She has also been greatly influenced by her younger sister, Amber who has taught her much about self-confidence. Rebecca gives special notice to her high school teacher Sang Park "for being one of those teachers that took the time to really talk to his students and listened to their issues or problems and just genuinely cared about their lives and futures." Her biggest personal accomplishment this year was spending Halloween away from home. This may not seem like much to other people, but for Rebecca this was the first holiday she celebrated away from her family. After college, Rebecca wants to find a job and get her life settled. She places a great value on education and sees it as a way to better ourselves and learn more about how to live in the world. When she was younger she found her passion volunteering in school libraries. She would like to continue this kind of work in her future. Her advise to other native students is, "ask questions and engage to better understand all heritages that define you." This is important to her because "by learning your cultures you can grow as a person." She encourages anyone to be involved and be a part of something. It is a great way to grow and learn different skills. "Don't just go through school without being involved with an organization because even though you are here for your education, you are also learning social skills as well which is just as important." Rebecca says that the CICSC is her safe haven. She is there everyday and naturally gravitates toward the center. It is a place where she can talk to people who have lived a similar lifestyle and learn more about her heritage.

Emilee Ramirez

American Indian Studies

Brian Wescott, Ph.D. (Athabascan/Yup'ik)



Brian Wescott, Ph.D.
(Athabascan/Yup'ik)

Dr. Brian Wescott is an enrolled Alaska Native, belonging to the Athabascan and Yup'ik tribes. His Yup'ik name in Pagaq, meaning either "the lines in one's hands" or "the grain in wood." His primary career prior to teaching on our campus was as an actor and producer in theater, television, and feature films. He serves on the Native committees at both SAG-AFTRA and the WGA and is in the process of joining the Actors' Equity Association (the union for stage actors). He earned his PhD at Yale University in American Studies (with a thesis on the history of Native Americans in the performing arts) and his AB at Harvard College in American History and Literature. When asked about his biggest

achievements, Dr. Wescott reminds us not be overly conceited and prefers to see his biggest personal accomplishment as being one that benefitted others. He is grateful to have played a role in convincing Harvard University, after many years of diplomacy and cajoling, to award the posthumous bachelor's degree to Wampanoag tribal member Joel Iacomes, who was the valedictorian of the Harvard College Class of 1665. He died the month before graduation and never received his degree. A committed coalition of Native and non-Native alumni finally prevailed upon the University to bestow the degree on the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) at Commencement in 2011. Dr. Wescott is also working to regain his Yup'ik language, which was the only language his mother spoke before she was sent away to boarding school. He feels that in doing so, every word is a hard-won step toward regaining his full identity. Dr. Wescott says that his challenges stemmed from living where owning a Native heritage posed, and still poses, uphill battles. "Sadly, simply not ending up dropped out, in prison, or dead is a real achievement." We at the CICSC are grateful for Dr. Wescott's well-deserved accomplishments and are proud that he works for AIS. His favorite part of working as CSUSM is sharing his love of his people's adventures in show business with his my wonderful students and learning more about the extraordinarily beautiful culture of the tribes in San Diego County. For example, seeing and hearing bird songs at the California's American Indian and Indigenous Film Festival transported him "to a zone of spirit and love rooted deep in this beautiful land." Dr. Wescott would like to say Quyanaqvaa (thank you very much) to Dr. Proudfit for welcoming him into the Center family. Recently, Dr. Wescott was profiled in the CSUSM Cougar Chronicle, read the article [here](#).

Emilee Ramirez

CICSC Graduate Student Researcher



California State University Profiles Dr. Proudfit



Dr. Proudfit (Luiseño/Payomkowishum)

"At the CSU I began to find my voice and to move from a feeling of victimization to one of empowerment." CSU San Marcos professor Dr. Joely Proudfit went from an impoverished childhood to becoming a Presidential appointee. Now she's helping to ensure more native students than ever are getting a CSU education. **Meet Joely**

Congratulations Vice Chairwoman Tishmall Turner



Vice Chairwoman Tishmall Turner (Luiseño/Payomkowishum)

The California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center's very own Tribal Liaison, Tishmall Turner, has once again added another credential to her name. On Wednesday, December 14, 2016 Tishmall was sworn in at the InterTribal Court on the Rincon Reservation as her tribe's new Vice Chairwoman. Like every other council she sits on, her goals are to improve her tribal community with the knowledge and experiences she has gained throughout her life and career. We cannot wait to see what she will do for the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians and for Indian Country alike. On behalf of the California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center, I would like to congratulate Tishmall Turner on her victory of the 2016 Election for Vice Chairwoman.

Dancy Turner

AISA Council member/CICSC Student Researcher

Events

CSUSM Major/Minor Fair



The Major and Minor Fair took place in the Student Union on Thursday,

November 3, 2016 from 11:30-1:30. Current students who are majoring and minoring in American Indian Studies managed the booth to talk to the passing students. They discussed what type of jobs and opportunities are provided with a major/minor in American Indian Studies. It was a great turn out.

Ernestina Martinez (Navajo)

Cornell West Comes to CSUSM



Anderson Gould Jr., Cornell West, Michael Murphy

A small group of students were randomly selected to meet Cornell West two hours before the main event. I was one of the selected students.

Meeting with Dr. West and being able to share his knowledge among other like minded colleagues is definitely something to be remembered. Most surprising was the colloquial manner in which Dr. West spoke to the students. He was talking with us and being extremely receptive to our concerns and ideas.

A mere few weeks after Dr. West spoke at our campus two AISA alumni were fortunate enough to meet him at an airport on their way to Standing Rock. Anderson Gould (Navajo), a marine corp vet, went to Standing Rock to stand with water protectors and defenders along with Michael Murphy (Luiseno).

Aaron Long (Navajo)
AISA Councilmember

AISA Heritage Day and NoDAPL Action



On Tuesday, November 15th, the American Indian Student Alliance (AISA) held their annual Heritage Day celebration. This event is held in honor of American Indian Heritage month every November, and this year the event coincidentally landed on the National Day of Action against the Dakota Access Pipeline. The event showcased traditional American Indian dances, with performances by Fancy Shawl and Jingle Dress dancers from the Soboba Indian reservation, Kale Flores of Pechanga, and Navajo/Crow Richard DeCrane. Kumeyaay and Cahuilla Birdsingers also sang traditional songs as Native community members and students showcased bird dancing. To incorporate the national NoDAPL Day of Action, Jayson Braveheart, Lakota of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, spoke to the crowd about his experiences at Standing Rock. ASIA had a table for students to come up and donate or sign the petition against the pipeline.

To learn more about the Dakota Access Pipeline, visit standwithstandingrock.net

*Emilee Ramirez
CICSC Graduate Student Researcher*



**4th Annual California's American Indian
& Indigenous Film Festival**



2016 CAIIF Recap Video



The California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center (CICSC) held its 4th annual California's American Indian & Indigenous Film Festival (CAIIF) from Thursday, November 17th to Saturday, November 19th. Among the guests and attendants were local community members, Native artists, actors, and directors. The first two nights were held at CSU San Marcos, where we screened *Te Ata*, *1000 Years: One Woman's Fight for Justice*, *Maliglutit*, and *Powwow Highway*. These movies were followed by Q&A panels where the audience could hear from our special guests Q'orianka Kilcher, Gil Birmingham, Gary Farmer, and directors Melinda Janko and Chris Eyre. Thursday night we also hosted a live painting by the very talented J. Nicole Hatfield.

The final night and VIP reception was held at the Pechanga Resort and Casino. There, we screened *Dances with Wolves* and *The Only Good Indian*. Steven Paul Judd hosted our annual Youth Track where he teaches

youth how to create their own films. The festival also hosted an art exhibit, which highlighted Native Pop artists Joe Hopkins, J. Nicole Hatfield, Brent Learned, Bunky Echo-Hawk, George Levi, and Steven Paul Judd. On the final night of the festival, the event closed with an honoring of Cherokee actor Wes Studi. Mr. Studi was the first honoree at the festival. The California native community thanked him for his outstanding work and representation of indigenous people in film by sharing with him traditional song and dance. His honoring was followed by a performance by Q'orianka Kilcher.

The CICSC would like to thank all attendants and sponsors for making this year's festival yet another success!

Be sure to check out all of our amazing photographs from this years film festival on [Facebook!](#)

Emilee Ramirez

CICSC Graduate Student Researcher



Gil Birmingham and Q'orianka Kilcher with American Indian Student Alliance, honoring the NoDAPL protectors at the 2016 CAIIF

KPBS Local Heroes Celebration



Every year, KPBS partners with Union Bank to recognize local heroes in San Diego Diverse Communities. This year, Dr. Joely Proudfit was one of the recipients of the Local Heroes Award along with other inspiring individuals. Courage and passion is what compels these individuals to create change within their communities and make a difference on a

person's life. For Dr. Proudfit, she recognizes the importance of educating young American Indian students and has dedicated over twenty years to helping individuals achieve their goals in the hopes that they will inspire the youth in their own communities. As a result, some of her previous and current students were able to witness her accept her award and be recognized with fifteen other remarkable people for all the contributions she has made to inspire American Indian students to determine their own path.

Laila Basquez
AISA Chairwoman

Presentations

Native American Heritage Month Presentations

When: Monday, November 7, 2016

Where: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Subject: California Indians and the Current State of American Indian Education in the Golden State

[For More Information](#)

When: Tuesday, November 22, 2016

Where: UCSD's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Subject: Indigenous Ingenuity: American Indians' Efforts to Move beyond Make-Believe, Media and Marginalization

[For More Information](#)

When: Monday, November 28, 2016

Where: US Customs and Border Protection

Subject: Celebration of Native American Heritage Month

[For More Information](#)

When: Saturday, November 5, 2016

Where: Oceanside Public Library - Mission Branch

Subject: American Indians in Literature: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly.

[For More Information](#)

Upcoming Events

Cougars Stand with Standing Rock

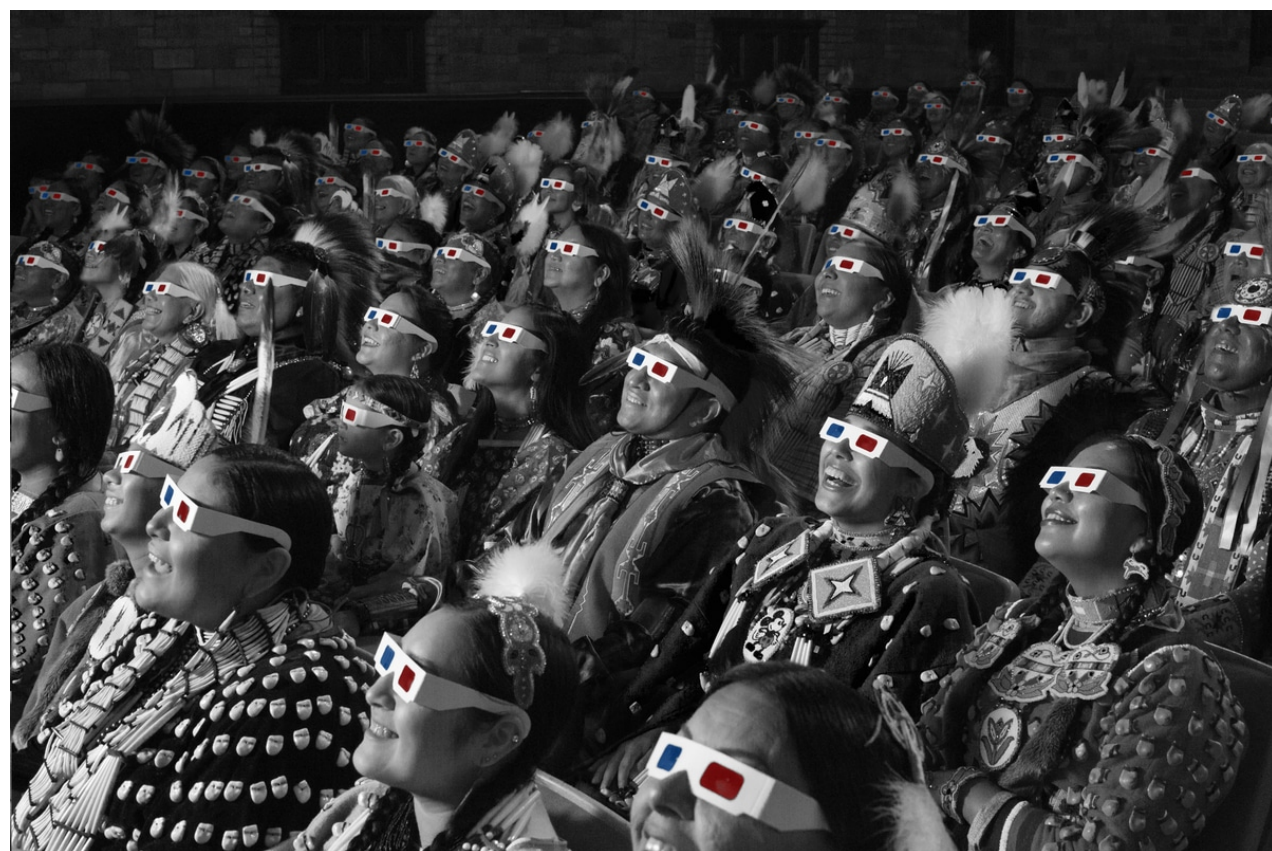


The California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center will be taking donations to be sent to the protectors at Standing Rock. The CICSC is located on the north end of campus near the parking structure in SBSB 1118. Donations will be sent out periodically as community members take trips out to North Dakota. The most necessary items include, but are not limited to, blankets and warm clothing for the upcoming winter. Anything at all will be much appreciated!

Two of our former CSUSM/AISA students, Michael Murphy and Anderson Gould Jr., recently made it out to stand strong with our brothers and sisters at Standing Rock. To read about their experience [click here!](#)



5th Annual California's American Indian & Indigenous Film Festival



Date: *November 16-18, 2017*
Location: *CSU San Marcos Campus &
Pechanga Resort & Casino*
More Information: *www.caiiff.com*

Order Your 2016 CAIIFF T-Shirt Today

Be sure to order your limited 2016 California's American Indian & Indigenous Film Festival T-shirt! Artwork and design created by Kiowa Artist Steven Paul Judd.

[Order Here](#)



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