MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR!

Greetings! One of the highlights from our Spring 2015 semester that I am delighted to report to you was the announcement by Provost Graham Oberem of the creation of an American Indian Studies Department at CSUSM. The American Indian Studies Department will have its inaugural start beginning Fall 2015, and I am honored to be named the Chair of American Indian Studies in addition to continuing my role as the Director of the CICSC. Provost Oberem’s announcement culminates over ten years of work to institutionalize the Tribal Initiative at CSUSM under the leadership of President Karen Haynes. President Haynes has been a steward of American Indian Education since her tenure began at CSUSM 11 years ago. The fact that the American Indian Studies Department will be ushered in during the 25th Anniversary of CSUSM gives us all more reason to celebrate and lend our support to CSUSM.

This Fall semester, I will conduct a Strategic Planning Session for the American Indian Studies Department to map out a 5-year course to develop the Department. First and foremost in this process will be the priority to submit the necessary curricular forms to establish an American Indian Studies Major. The goal is to complete both tasks by the end of Fall Semester 2015. I welcome your support and encourage you to visit the CICSC during the summer, where I will be holding periodic office hours to further the work of both the CICSC and the AIS Department at CSUSM.

Joely Proudft, Ph.D. (Luiseño)
Director, CICSC

Student Highlight

Dancy Turner
Dancy Turner is a member of the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians. Dancy is majoring in Visual and Performing Arts with a minor in Native Studies. Dancy is currently a Councilwoman in the American Indian Student Alliance at CSUSM. Her older siblings and father have been a positive influence in her life. They are one of the reasons she has made it this far. Her father is who she looks up to because he started from nothing and is now successful. Dancy's goal is to get her PhD and become a teacher. Dancy sees the purpose of education as a way to broaden knowledge of life and help in networking. Her advice to students is "Do not let anyone ever tell you that you cannot do something. If you dream it, you can do it!"

The CICSC has aided with Dancy's studies by providing proficient resources and support and has also helped her meet and befriend many other American Indian students at CSUSM. Her peers at the CICSC have supported her choices and been a great influence at school, as well as off campus. The CICSC has also helped build her resume through various research assignments, work, and volunteer opportunities. "It's an amazing atmosphere for native and non-native students alike!" Dancy stated, "I don't know where I would be without it or the people who provide it!"

Megan Doughty
CICSC Creative Director

Events

First Friday

Friday, May 1st, 2015

On Friday May 1st, 2015, we had our last First Friday of the Spring semester. There were three birthdays to celebrate this month; it was a lot of fun with a great group of students, professors, staff and faculty members in attendance. We also had a special guest for this First Friday, Koshi Biggs. Koshi is a certified de-stressor dog who goes to nursing homes, memory care facilities, libraries, and in the week before finals Koshi visits universities. Since May is the month of finals, Koshi, came to help de-stress all the students and professors before final exams started. She was a lot of fun, everyone petted her and rubbed her belly. She was so cute and just so much fun to be around. Overall, it was a lot of fun and I thought it was nice to have Koshi there to help us de-stress. Photos Link
Chris Eyre

Monday, May 4th, 2015

Chris Eyre (Cheyenne/Arapaho) is an award-winning director and producer of film and television. Eyre guest lectured on Monday, May 4, in Dr. Proudfit's Imagining Indians: American Indians, Mass Media, Film and Society class. Eyre has been described as "the preeminent Native American filmmaker of his time" by People magazine. Eyre's work has received many awards, including both a Peabody and an Emmy. Eyre directed the highly acclaimed Smoke Signals, which won a coveted Sundance Audience Award and the Sundance Filmmakers Trophy. Students were excited for the opportunity to interact and ask questions during the video conference session.

Dancy Turner (Luiseño)
CICSC Student Assistant

American Indian Honoring Ceremony

Friday, May 8th, 2015

On May 8th, 2015 friends, family, faculty, Tribal Leaders and California State University San Marcos President Dr. Karen Haynes were among those present at the 2015 Native American Honoring Ceremony held inside the Social and Behavioral Sciences Building. The event began with an afternoon prayer and blessing, followed by a few special announcements and praise from CSUSM President Dr. Karen Haynes. The graduates were then introduced and presented with a special stole embroidered with 2015 and words of wisdom that they wore proudly on Graduation Day, May 16-17, 2015. The graduates were then presented a gift from California's 38th District Senator Joel Anderson, although he was not present. The Senator was able to provide the graduates with a certificate of recognition for all their hard work and accomplishments. As the cameras flashed and rained down on our graduates, everyone present were then treated to some amazing food and beverages to celebrate their accomplishments and enjoy all of the students' hard work. Photos Link

Marjon Pino (Navajo)
CICSC Student Assistant
San Diego American Indian Pow Wow

On May 9th, 2015, CSUSM Tribal Liaison, Tishmall Turner, was honored at the San Diego American Indian Pow Wow.

2015 Democratic State Convention

On May 15th, 2015, Dr. Proudfit, American Indian Student Alliance members and CSUSM students attended the 2015 Democratic State Convention to present their GIS research to the Native American Democratic Caucus. Photos Link

Cultural Studies Association Conference

Thursday, May 14th, 2015

Dr. Gregor presented at the Cultural Studies Association Conference in Riverside on May 14th with Dr. Rodney Beaulieu (Miq'maq). Dr. Beaulieu is a faculty member in the Human Development Department in the College of Health and Human Services. We presented our proposal: "Fortifying the University Writing Curriculum with American Indian Values and Autoethnography." Our goal is to prepare the curriculum for a new undergraduate writing course that combines American Indian storytelling concepts with autoethnography. "Autoethnography is an approach to research and writing that seeks to describe and systematically analyze personal experience in order to understand cultural experience. This approach challenges canonical ways of doing research and representing others and treats research as a political, socially-just and socially-conscious act. A researcher uses tenets of autobiography and ethnography to do and write autoethnography. Thus, as a method, autoethnography is both process and product,"("AE, An Overview," Ellis, Adams, & Bochner: 2011). Conference attendees were very receptive to the concept and provided us with valuable feedback; in particular, two audience members from New Zealand shared their interested in creating a similar course for their students who often interact with Maori and Pacific Island peoples.

Theresa Gregor (Iipay)
CICSC Research Associate