Montana tribal representatives stand in front of their respectful tribal flags during the opening ceremonies and dedication of The Payne Family Native American Center.

The Payne Family Native American Center

The events today are sure to evoke many emotions. My feelings and thoughts are those of gratitude. I first want to thank the ancestors of all Native American people. If it weren’t for the beauty, complexity, and distinctiveness of Native American language, ceremony, and culture, we would not be gathered here today. I would like to thank all those who had a part in the planning and construction of this beautiful new building. All the contributions made by individuals, whether financial, physical, or otherwise should be acknowledged and rewarded ten-fold with all the things money cannot buy.

It would be an injustice to let this occasion pass without giving all due respect and credit to the founders, faculty and students for the creation and longevity of the Native American Studies Department here at the University of Montana. We, as Native American students are thankful for the doors that have been left open. The innovative architecture, building materials, and infusion of Indian art and culture are certainly befitting of one of the premiere Native American Studies programs in the country.

It is exciting to be among the first students to utilize this new building. Within its walls, technology and culture meet in symbolism that is representative of the legacy and future of Native American students. My elderly people often remind me that a degree from a University will take you a long way, but our Indian ways will take us the rest of the way. We as modern Indian students must strive to be well versed, not only in the Western education system, but in our own cultures as well.

As current Native American students, we are indebted to all those that came before us, and left a trail for us to follow. We have a unique opportunity to help build upon the foundation of our predecessors, which we hope will make the pursuit of higher education for the next generation of students accessible and rewarding. Through our efforts at the University of Montana, we are ensuring that generations of Indian scholars are going to burst through that door that we are eagerly holding open for them.

The beauty of the building and its prominence can be a visible source of pride, recognition, and belonging for Native Americans on the campus of the University of Montana. The exterior of The Payne Family Native American Center is emblazoned with the flags of all the tribes that call Montana home. As all Indian nations of our state are represented on the inside, may it be the same on the inside. I think and hope that this building could serve as a tool of unification for all the nations represented by the whole student body. Despite any differences, we all have something important in common...we are Grizzlies.

-An excerpt from Wabusk Ragged Robe’s essay, winning the award for The Payne Family Native American Center Dedication Ceremony student essay contest.
FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings everyone!

The fall semester has seen the opening of the new Payne Family Native American Center for classroom and student use. In May we held a wonderful event celebrating the building’s opening. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to put that together and to make the building a wonderful teaching and learning center. Many of the Native American Studies classes are taught in this beautiful facility, and other courses bring a wide variety of people into the building. We have a computer lab, student club room, and a variety of places for students to study and socialize. We are beginning to realize the benefits that our student, Wabusk Ragged Robe, foresaw in the essay he wrote to help celebrate the opening event. We have reprinted his speech on the front page of this newsletter.

In addition to our full-time faculty, and part-timers who continue with us this year - George Price (NAS 100) and Annabelle Chatsis (Blackfeet Language classes) - we have been fortunate to be able to hire three Native American adjunct faculty to help teach our fall courses. Darrell Kipp, a co-founder of the Piegan Institute in Browning, is teaching a freshman seminar for us. He is also holding advanced Blackfeet language seminars on Tuesday afternoons. Dr. Heather Cahoon (Salish) is teaching our Oral and Written Traditions course while Angelica Lawson is on maternity leave this semester. Rosalyn LaPier (Blackfeet), a Ph.D. candidate in environmental history, is teaching the Native American Religion and Philosophy course. Please help us welcome these faculty members.

We’re in the midst of a busy and exciting fall semester. You can keep up with our activities and deadlines by following the Native American Facebook page. Please come visit us in The Payne Family Native American Center.

- Dr David Beck, Native American Studies Chair

2010 NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES GRADUATES:

Matthew Flat Lip
Tribal Affiliation: Mountain Crow, Crow Nation
Hometown: Pryor, MT
Double Major: Anthropology
Future Plans: Matt will continue working as a Fire & Aviation Tech in Pryor, MT, & plans to attend Graduate School in the future.

Robert Flamand
Tribal Affiliation: Kainai
Hometown: Browning, MT
Minor: Anthropology
Future Plans: Will seek employment with the Blood tribe.

John Wagner
Tribal Affiliation: Blackfeet
Hometown: Browning, MT
Double Major: Media Arts
Future Plans: John plans to attend the Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program & focus on Media Arts, Native American Studies & Anthropology

Ashley Haley
Tribal Affiliation: Chippewa Cree
Hometown: Rocky Boy, MT
Double Major: Political Science
Future Plans: Ashley plans to attend Law School & focus on Tribal Law

David “Duke” Oliver
Hometown: Corvallis, OR (staying in Missoula)
Future Plans: Duke will start a graduate program at UM & plans to focus on Native American Studies, Education & History, & plans to eventually teach Native American Studies courses at college level.

Eleanor Yellow Robe
Tribal Affiliation: Gros Ventre
Hometown: Fort Belknap, MT
Eleanor also received a Bachelors & Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of Montana
Future Plans: Eleanor is starting a business called Native Assets & Consulting & is studying to get her CPA License.

Brianna Smith
Hometown: Dutton, MT
Double Major: Political Science with an emphasis in Public Administration
Future Plans: Brianna plans to attend the University of North Dakota Law School.

Matthew Bell
Tribal Affiliation: Assiniboine/Gros Ventre
Hometown: Pocatello, ID
Double Major: English Teaching
Future Plans: Matt plans to teach Junior High, or High school English, then plans to pursue a graduate degree with the goal of eventually becoming a Professor

Recipients of the Native American Studies Distinguished Alumni Award:

Heidi Wallace
Heidi Wallace was selected for her work with the National Coalition Building Institute, where she focuses on violence prevention and racism reduction with Montana youth.

Arlene Adams
Arlene was selected for her cultural contribution to her people and continued service to Native American Studies.
Willie joins us as a work-study student from the far off shores of the Manawatu region of New Zealand’s North Island. Willie and his wife Evelyn, (who is Kapampangan / Bicolano from the Philippines) have lived here in the US for almost 10 years, the last 5 of which have been here in Montana.

Having a background in working with indigenous issues both in New Zealand and the Philippines (and various places in between), Willie and Evelyn relocated to the States for the sole purpose of working in indigenous arenas here.

Majoring in both Native American Studies and Political Science, Willie has a particular interest in working in areas of indigenous sovereignty, cultural revitalization, and the protection of indigenous property.

Willie and Evelyn have also been designated as the official ambassadors to the City of Missoula from their hometown of Palmerston North, New Zealand (with whom Missoula shares a sister-city relationship), and are charged with promoting cultural and educational ties (among many other things) between the two cities and regions. Willie is actively involved in continuing to encourage and develop the strong ties between the Maori community in New Zealand, and the Native American community - particularly here in Montana.

Oki Nistoo Nitanikoo Niistipooka.

My name is Kristy CalfRobe, I grew up in Browning, Montana and I am an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Nation. I am a Junior here at The University of Montana pursuing a Health and Human Performance degree. Upon graduation I plan to further my education by applying to a Physician’s Assistant Program specializing in Sports Medicine and General Family Practice. I hope to return home to offer my services to my people.

I am currently a work-study student for the Native American Studies Department located in The Payne Family Native American Center. I enjoy every aspect the job has to offer, the people, the friendly and welcoming environment, and the awesome staff and faculty. The building brings a warm home and comfortable feeling to the student life. I am fortunate to be a part of such an outstanding department.

PS: You can find us on Facebook or check us out at www.lib.umt.edu

Darrell Robes Kipp, an adjunct Blackfeet language instructor, is the co-founder and director of the Piegan Institute on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana. Founded in 1987, the private research institute’s mission is to research, promote, and preserve the Am-Skapi-Pi-Kuni (Blackfeet) Language. He is a graduate of Eastern Montana College; Harvard University Graduate School of Education, and the Vermont College of Fine Arts.

He is a recognized scholar and designer of indigenous language revitalization school formats. The Cuts Wood School, a K-8 privately funded school, is lauded as the exemplary model of a tribal language revitalization format. Mr. Kipp has worked with communities in New Zealand, Hawaii, the Balkans, and over 100 Native American tribes in the United States. He is a writer, historian and documentary film maker.

He belongs to the two oldest Blackfoot Societies - the Okan Medicine Lodge, and Medicine Pipe. He was a tenured member of the Montana Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission; the recipient of the 2005 Montana Governor’s Award for the Humanities, and the Montana Historical Society's Trustee Award.
FACULTY PUBLICATIONS FALL 2010


Wade Davies and Rich Clow co-edited the massive book American Indian Sovereignty and Law: An Annotated Bibliography. (Lanham, MD: The Scarecrow Press, 2009). It contains 5,519 fully annotated entries of books, academic journal articles, and law articles organized into 57 topical chapters. It will remain the key resource for finding information on tribal sovereignty for years to come.

Wade Davies’ book Healing Ways: Navajo Health Care in the Twentieth Century was issued in a paperback edition by the University of New Mexico Press in 2009.

Wade Davies’ article “Sharon Mote’s Quest for an Indian School Basketball Tournament and Athletic Association, 1927-1929” is currently in press for the journal South Dakota History.

Kathryn Shanley is co-editor (with Laura Beard) of a special issue of Intertexts: A Journal of Comparative and Theoretical Reflection (Fall 2010) on Gender Issues in Indigenous Studies.


David Beck’s book Seeking Recognition: The Termination and Restoration of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians of Southwestern Oregon in Historical Context, 1855-1984 (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press) was published in 2009. It was issued on Kindle in 2010.

David Beck’s article “Collecting Among the Menominee: Cultural Assault in Twentieth Century Wisconsin,” appeared in American Indian Quarterly 34:2 (Spring 2010), pp. 157-93. It analyzes the impact of scholars and museum collectors on both the Menominee community and the scholarly community.

David Beck also published “Standing out here in the surf: The Termination and Restoration of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, 1954-1984,” in Oregon Historical Quarterly 110:1 (Spring 2009), pages 6-37. This article won Honorable Mention for the 2010 Joel Palmer Award from the Oregon Historical Society.

Heather Cahoon’s poem “Rescue at L8000 Road” was published in the anthology New Poets of the American West (Kalispell: Many Voices Press, 2010), edited by Lowell Jaeger.