On Saturday, April 5, the IU First Nations Educational and Cultural Center joined the American Indian Center of Indiana to co-host the second annual Native American Health and Wellness Community Dance. The IU Native American Graduate Students Association and American Indian Student Association co-sponsored the event.

The dance focused on promoting Indiana University’s health services and offered free health screenings to attendees. The event’s organizers also sought to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and diabetes while also offering information on nutrition and fitness.

Because American Indians living in Indiana have no in-state access to the Indian Health Service, the dance filled, albeit temporarily, a crucial gap.

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Nicky Belle, a Programs Coordinator at FNECC commented on the Center’s investment in this effort: “Part of our role as a culture center is not just to IU, but also to the local, regional community by providing access to health care and education.” In addition to his role coordinating the event, Belle served as Arena Director, making sure the dance proceeded according to schedule.

MC LeRoy Malaterre, an Ojibwe who grew up on North Dakota’s Turtle Mountain Reservation, moved the day’s activities along with jokes, stories, and information about the different songs and dances being performed. Two drum groups, the Stony Lonesome Singers and the Kingfisher Singers, provided the heartbeat that drove each dance.

Like the IU traditional powwow this past October, the dance offered an opportunity for Native folks from across the Midwest to visit with one another. As the day wore on, Union Street Center filled with a diverse crowd—children and elders, students and community members, Natives and non-Natives.

A delegation of high school student visitors from the Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Reservation attended the

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Tucked away in the building that houses Indiana University’s Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology and Mathers Museum of World Cultures, the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley Ethnohistory Collection has remained a hidden treasure since its creation in the 1950s. The archive comprises copies of documents—what archivists call an “artificial” collection—collected over a period of thirteen years by a team of researchers led by the famed ethnohistorian Erminie Wheeler-Voegelin.

Wayne Huxhold began his work at the archive as a volunteer in August 2013. An MLS student specializing in Archives and Records Management, Huxhold’s love for history and anthropology led him to the position. Initially, Wayne simply wanted an excuse to work with the collection. Now a paid employee of the Glenn Black Lab, Huxhold directs student interns in a massive conservation project that will not only preserve this one-of-a-kind archive for future use, but also reorganize and digitize these documents.

Decades ago, Wheeler-Voegelin and her research staff paid a great deal of attention to organization and cross-referenced documents within the collection. In addition to a complete bibliography, they also recorded names of communities and places as well as ethnographic features such as weapons and food items, eventually consolidating this information into individual note cards, which would then serve as part of a larger card catalogue.

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(Huxhold, continued from page 3)

Huxhold and his staff have nearly completed updating the original finding aid—created in 1979—and, through a new partnership with Indiana University Archives, will make available online finding aids that will bring the collection into major databases such as IUCAT and WorldCat.

In addition to heightening the archive’s exposure, Huxhold has also led his team in a conservation effort that has included transferring papers out of fifty-year-old pressboard binders and into acid-free folders. To give an example of the project’s scale, one series within the collection comprised nine hundred of these binders. They also have plans to rebox and respool over 1,500 microfilm reels.

Huxhold and others see great promise for the newly renamed Erminie Wheeler-Voeglin Archives. Beyond its value as an historical collection spanning roughly three centuries, Huxhold pointed out that the collection’s resources remain legal evidence for potential use in ongoing and future land claim cases. As such, they will serve as a valuable tool for lawyers, tribal governments, and others interested in returning land to or seeking compensation for Native communities and nations. In Huxhold’s words, the ultimate goal has been to “make the collection dynamic by building a Native American presence around it or alongside it,” to honor it as both a historical collection and ongoing resource.

(Health and Wellness, continued from page 2)

Health and Wellness Dance as part of a campus visit meant to build IU’s connections to Indian Country and recruit Native students. They seemed undeterred by the university’s current scarcity of reservation-based students. Instead, the visitors witnessed a strong Native presence embodied in the dance and the warm welcome they received.

Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs James Wimbush was also in attendance. Dean Wimbush helped lead the grand entry along with Arena Director Nicky Belle and Patrick Smith from the FASE Mentoring Program.

In all, through the cooperative efforts of numerous individuals and organizations, the second Health and Wellness Dance was a success. High turnout, enthusiastic participants, and vital services and information combined to create an ideal atmosphere for this gathering.

Left, Dean James Wimbush with visitors from the Red Cloud Indian School, Pine Ridge, South Dakota (photo courtesy of FNECC).
The academic mission of Native American and Indigenous Studies emerged out of and remains inextricable from decolonization—a set of ongoing and interconnected processes that take innumerable forms. In an effort to honor this connection, this piece will be the first in an ongoing series that highlights Indigenous issues unfolding beyond Indiana University but still connected to NAIS at IU.

In recent years, Canada’s national government has scaled back environmental legislation in place to protect First Nations’ territories. In response, politicians and energy interests have faced massive push back from Indigenous people, most famously in the form of the ongoing Idle No More movement.

In the spring of 2013, SWN Resources, a subsidiary of the Houston based Southwestern Energy Company began conducting exploratory research near the Elsipogtog First Nation, part of unceded Mi’kmaq territory in New Brunswick. Hoping to develop a shale gas industry in the region, SWN planned to eventually use hydraulic fracturing, popularly known as fracking, to extract natural gas from the territory.

In response, First Nations protestors joined non-Native residents of New Brunswick in an effort to prevent SWN from carrying out seismic testing that would help identify natural gas deposits below ground. Demonstrators blocked access roads that would have allowed SWN workers to reach their equipment. These blockades remained effective through the summer and into the fall but erupted into violence on October 17, 2013, when the RCMP enforced an injunction on SWN’s behalf.

On that day, hundreds of officers made forty arrests (including the chief and band councilors), fired tear gas and bean bag rounds, and terrorized those present with dogs and camouflage-clad snipers. Demonstrators burned several RCMP vehicles but were unarmed and behaved nonviolently on the whole. Some of those arrested are now facing trial and SWN, who temporarily ended operations in December, has plans to return in 2015.

Despite our geographical distance from these events, as students and educators working within NAIS at IU, we can still extend our support to the people of Elsipogtog and the Mi’kmaq Nation through discussion, awareness, and teaching. For more information, please click the links embedded within this piece.
UPCOMING EVENTS & CONFERENCES

❖ **Public Lecture, Glenn Black Laboratory, April 30, 4:00 p.m.** “Nanta Hosh Chahta Immi? (What are Choctaw Lifeways?): Cultural Preservation in the Casino Era, Sean Gantt, PhD.

❖ **2014 Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Conference.** University of Texas at Austin, Texas, May 29-31, 2014. For more information, visit [www.naisa.org](http://www.naisa.org).

❖ **Indiana University Mini University 2014, June 11, 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.**—Native Americans and the U.S. Military: Images and Information from the Wannamaker Collection. Event requires [pre-registration](#).

❖ **2014 Ethnohistory Conference.** Indianapolis, IN, October 8-12. [http://www.ethnohistory.org/](http://www.ethnohistory.org/)

❖ **Indiana University’s Fourth Traditional Powwow.** Indiana Memorial Union, November 1-2, 2014. [www.indiana.edu/~fnecc/](http://www.indiana.edu/~fnecc/)

❖ **Visit Indiana University’s** Native American and Indigenous Studies program on [facebook](#) for updates on upcoming talks, workshops, events, and more!