IU TO COHOST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR ETHNOHISTORY

Indiana University and the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma will join in Indianapolis to co-host this year’s annual meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory. This year’s event will celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the first publication of *Ethnohistory*, the Society’s journal.

Indiana University students and faculty will be well represented at the conference. Kristina Downs, a PhD candidate in Folklore, will present a paper entitled “Juan Ortiz and the Captive as Interpreter Motif.” Jason Jackson, Associate Professor of Folklore and director of the Mathers Museum of World Cultures, will chair a panel organized by Christina Snyder, associate professor of history and American studies and chair of the NAIS degree program. The panel, “Exploring the Work and Legacy of ASE Founder Erminie Wheeler-Voegelin,” will feature presentations by...
Raymond DeMallie, professor of anthropology, and Wayne Huxhold, whose work at the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley Ethnohistory Collection was featured in the last issue of this newsletter.

Demallie will participate in a number of additional panels dealing with the history of the Society as well as the importance of the ethnohistorical method. Snyder will also participate in multiple panels, including one on ethnohistory in the Native South and one celebrating the work of the late historian, Mike Green.

Chris Clements, a PhD candidate in history, will present a paper entitled “Theorizing a Politics of Mohawk Refusal at Akwesasne, 1940-1980.” A panel on the “Contributions of Native Language Studies to Northern Plains Ethnohistory,” will feature David Posthumous, Nicky Belle, and Joshua Richards, PhD candidates in anthropology, as well as Associate Professor of Anthropology Laura Scheiber and IU alum and assistant professor of Indian Studies at the University of North Dakota, Sebastian Braun.

Scholars from additional IU campuses and other universities in the state also feature prominently in this year’s program.

Because this year’s conference marks an important moment in ASE’s history, the organizers posed three questions to encourage submissions that would reflect on the Society and the method that it grew up alongside: “How has the study of Ethnohistory changed over the previous six decades? What are the most vital issues Ethnohistorians face in the 21st century? And what lies ahead for ASE?”

The conference will also award prizes for the best book and best article in the field of ethnohistory published during the course of the previous year. The Helen Hornbeck Tanner Award will recognize the best student conference paper.

The meeting will take place October 8 – 12 at the Crowne Plaza Union Station in Indianapolis. The location, which pays homage to the Society’s founding at Indiana University, will also offer an exciting opportunity for IU’s Native and Indigenous studies scholars to showcase their work. It will bring further attention to the growing importance of NAIS at IU and universities across the state. Information regarding attending the conference can be found here.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

We are excited to announce that Sarah Dees, Indiana University NAIS alumna and past recipient of the IU College of Arts & Sciences NAIS fellowship, has accepted the position of Lecturer in Religious Studies at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Sarah will soon complete a PhD in religious studies at IU and begins work as a faculty member at UT-Knoxville this fall. Her work examines the relationship between American anthropology and Native American religions and religious practices around the turn of the twentieth century. Specifically, Sarah explores how notions of race and indigeneity emerged out of the nexus of those two forces. Congratulations Sarah!
Indigenous studies scholars from around the world convened in Austin, Texas, this past May for the sixth annual meeting of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA). Co-sponsored by the University of Texas and Texas A & M, the conference offered participants an opportunity to engage with the major theoretical issues driving Native studies: sovereignty, settler colonialism, decolonization, and the relationship of indigenous studies to other disciplines. Importantly, the meeting also attracted community organizers and others working outside of academia.

In addition to over 150 panels and roundtables, attendees could choose to participate in a number of extra activities. These included a trip to the Sacred Springs site in San Marcos, a private dinner at the world-famous Franklin Barbecue restaurant, and a keynote lunch at the Sol y Luna Restaurant featuring a talk by Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui (Aymara, Bolivia).

The conference concluded with a launch party for the NAIS Journal’s inaugural issue (Spring 2014). The journal is published twice annually by the University of Minnesota Press and, according to its mission statement, seeks to publish “the best interdisciplinary scholarship in international Native American and Indigenous Studies.” Jean O’Brien (White Earth Ojibwe, University of Minnesota) and Robert Warrior (Osage, University of Illinois) are serving as co-editors. Along with articles and book reviews, the forthcoming Fall 2014 issue will include a special forum entitled “Perspectives on the Israel-Palestinian Conflict from Indigenous Studies” co-authored by O’Brien and Warrior.

The journal, along with NAISA’s upcoming June 2015 conference in Washington, D.C., will provide important forums for NAIS students to share their work and join the growing academic community of Indigenous studies scholars. More information on NAISA can be found here.
This past May, I found myself in Ottawa conducting dissertation research at the Library and Archives Canada, the Canadian equivalent of the U.S. ’s National Archives in Washington, D.C. My visit happened to coincide with a series of planned demonstrations—deemed by organizers as a National Day of Resistance—across the country and focused on the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa.

On May 14, over 1,000 individuals, mostly from indigenous nations in Canada and northern New York, rallied to voice their opposition to Bill C-33 (First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act) and Bill C-10 (Contraband Tobacco Act), which are both direct attacks on First Nations sovereignty and, as one speaker pointed out, a continuation of the genocidal policies behind Canada’s residential and day schools. Those in attendance also demanded accountability to and recognition of Canada’s 1,186 missing and/or murdered indigenous women.

Bill C-33 would have vested the Canadian Minister of Indian Affairs with full power over First Nations education. In practice, this would have made French and English mandatory languages in Native schools while requiring the minister’s approval to teach First Nations language and culture. C-10 would have categorized the sale of tax-free tobacco as an indictable offense both on and off reserve. In effect, C-10 represented a direct attack on the many Indigenous nations who generate revenue through the sale of tobacco, an activity that most understand as a legal expression of Native sovereignty.

The issue of missing and murdered First Nations women was by far the most painful and challenging for those in attendance. Many victims’ families were present with pictures of their loved ones and stories about those they had lost. Some have called for a national inquiry while others feel that such an investigation would waste time and resources while generating little more than a long-winded report. These issues are ongoing and make up part of a concerted attack by Stephen Harper’s government on First Nations communities across Canada. For more information, see the links posted above.
**UPCOMING EVENTS & CONFERENCES**

- **2014 Ethnohistory Conference.** Indianapolis, IN, October 8-12.  

- **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](https://www.facebook.com) for updates on upcoming talks, workshops, events, and more!

**LINKS**

- IU First Nations Educational and Cultural Center
- Past NAIS Newsletters
- The American Indian Studies Research Institute
- Mathers Museum of World Cultures
- The Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology