

American Indian Studies Program

**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**AISP Welcomes Richard Van Camp for
A Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers Writing Event**



Spring 2007

This year, the American Indian Studies Program, Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers, and Studies in American Indian Literatures sponsored Dogrib author and storyteller Richard Van Camp. Van Camp is the author of the novel, *The Lesser Blessed*, a short story collection, *Angel Wing Splash Pattern*, and two children's books, *A Man Called Raven* and *What's the Most Beautiful Thing You Know About Horses?* with Cree artist George Littlechild.



Richard Van Camp with Ph.D. student Qwo-Li Driskill and professor Malea Powell

On March 16, 2007, Richard Van Camp read from several of his published works and told stories to community members, faculty and students. Van Camp focused on humor and healing. The next day, Van Camp and MSU Native faculty and graduate students presented writing and storytelling workshops. Richard led "The Power of Story" workshop, Angela Haas (Ph.D. student

Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures) presented on Native blogging. Ellen Cushman (WRAC) conducted a workshop on Digital NDN Storytelling, Qwo-Li Driskill (PhD student WRAC) and Kimberli Lee (WRAC) led a workshop on poetry and music, while Malea Powell (WRAC) and W.S. (Bill) Penn (English) discussed editing and publishing. The final event of

the day was a sharing session by workshop participants. This Wordcraft event linked academic, cultural and tribal writers in the greater Lansing area.

Special points of interest:

- AISP Pre-Doctoral Fellow
- Publications and Achievements by AISP Faculty and Students
- This year's Symposia
- Papers Presented

"I never know what stories I am going to tell, they happen for a reason. A story is told because someone listening needs to hear it," Van Camp says during Wordcraft Workshop



Jill Doerfler, AISP Pre-Doctoral Fellow 2006-07

Pre-Doctoral Fellow in American Indian Studies

Jill Doerfler is this year's Pre-Doctoral Fellow. She is Anishinaabe and grew up on the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota. Currently, she is a Ph.D. candidate in American Studies at the University of Minnesota. She is interested in the ways in which the U.S. has employed racialization as a political tool to eliminate and erase American Indians. Her

dissertation, "Fictions and Fractions: Reconciling Citizenship with Cultural Values Among the White Earth Anishinaabeg," explores the multifaceted connections between cultural, biological, and political identity. Drawing on legal documents and published Anishinaabe (Ojibwe/Chippewa) narratives, her dissertation explores how twentieth century Anishinaabe

constructions of identity challenge the transparent use of biological conceptions of race as a primary marker of identity.

Doerfler commented, "One of the big questions I had to consider was how blood quantum went from being a very resisted and controversial idea to one that the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (an

Pre-Doctoral Fellow Continued...

of six Anishinaabeg reservations including White Earth) accepted as the sole requirement for tribal citizenship in 1961. After reading many boxes of meeting minutes and correspondence, I found that over several decades the Secretary of the Interior rejected numerous resolutions on citizenship that only required lineal descent passed by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and finally threatened the MCT with a retraction of all services if they did not accept blood quantum."

She observes that the use of a one-quarter blood quantum for tribal citizenship has, literally, divided families between those who have enough "blood" to enroll and those who do not. Despite the problems that have resulted from the use of one-quarter blood quantum for tribal citizenship, Doerfler knows there is no easy answer to how tribal citizenship should be regulated. Rather than provide a precise "answer," she proposes that

Anishinaabeg look to literature as a starting point when considering how to redefine tribal citizenship requirements. She examines how a variety of literatures from traditional stories to the contemporary work of White Earth Anishinaabe author Gerald Vizenor can be utilized to create new citizenship requirements, arguing that concepts from these literatures such as *mino-bimaadiziwin* (the good life) and survivance can provide guidance on this complicated but important issue. She will defend her dissertation this summer and hopes her work will be useful as White Earth takes up the issue of citizenship at a constitutional convention set for September 2007.

Jill Doerfler says,

"One of the big questions I had to consider was how blood quantum went from being a very resisted and controversial idea to one that the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (an umbrella government consisting of six Anishinaabeg reservations including White Earth) accepted as the sole requirement for tribal citizenship in 1961."

Faculty Achievements and Announcements

Phil Bellfy (Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures) is organizing the Third Annual International Workshop sponsored by the Center for the Study of Indigenous Border Issues, to be held at Michigan State University on April 20-21, 2007, in conjunction with events worldwide to honor Earth Day. This year's conference theme is: "First Nations, the Great Lakes, and the Environment: Tri-National Implications."

Suzanne Cross (Social Work) published "Indian family exception doctrine: Still losing children despite the Indian Child Welfare Act" in *Child Welfare*. She received a grant (2006-2007) from the Honors College to conduct a study, "The impact of religion and spirituality on the lives of African American and American Indian women 55-70 years of age." Dr. Cross was honored with a Certificate of Recognition Toward Achieving Diversity at Michigan State University.

Susan Applegate Krouse (Anthropology) published an article "A Warrior Celebration: Photographs by Tom Jones, Ho-Chunk" in *Visual Anthropology*, and an invited review essay "Anthropology and the New Museology" in *Reviews in Anthropology*. In conjunction with her role as Director of the American Indian Studies Program, she was

awarded a year long Fellowship, from MSU, with the CIC Academic Leadership Program.

Jodie O'Gorman (Anthropology) and **William Lovis** (Anthropology) published "Before Removal: An Archaeological Perspective on the Southern Lake Michigan Basin," in "The Potawatomi Removal," a special issue of *Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology*.

Kim Lee (Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures) Her book about Mari Sandoz's activism on behalf of Plains Indian tribes, tentatively titled "I Do Not Apologize for the Length of this Letter": Mari Sandoz and Native American Rights, 1940-1965, is to be published by Texas Tech University Press.

William Lovis (Anthropology) published, with J. P. Hart, J. K. Schulenberg and J. R. Urquhart, "Paleodietary Implications from Stable Isotope Analysis of Experimental Cooking Residues" in *Journal of Archaeological Science*.

Malea Powell (Writing Rhetoric and American Cultures) published "Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins: Her Wrongs and Claims" in *American Indian Rhetorics of Survivance: Word Magic, Word Medicine*; and "Learning (Teaching) to Teach (Learn)" in

Relations, Locations, Positions: Composition Theory for Writing Teachers. Her beadwork piece "First Crane" was included in the exhibit *Out of Tradition: The Tradition Bearers from the National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture* at The Arts Place in Portland, Indiana.

Rocío Quispe-Agnoli (Spanish and Portuguese) published *La fe indígena en la escritura: resistencia e identidad en la obra de Guaman Poma de Ayala (The Andean Faith in the Script: Resistance and Identity in Guaman Poma de Ayala's Works)*; and edited a special issue of *Cuaderno Internacional de Estudios Hispánicos y Lingüística* entitled "Beyond the Convent: Colonial Women's Voices and Daily Challenges in Spanish America."

Susan Sleeper-Smith (History) chaired a symposium at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnohistory, "Commemoration, Reenactment, and Historical Memory in Comparative Context." She was recently elected the chair of the executive committee of the CIC-American Indian Studies Consortium, which brings together programs across the Big Ten schools and University of Chicago.

Indigenous Archaeology, Native Writing, and Ojibwe Language Highlight This Year's Events

On Friday, November 10th, 2006, the American Indian Studies Program held a symposium on "Archaeology and Indigenous Heritage Management: Practices and Policies." The program, organized by Dr. John Norder and Dr. Jodie O'Gorman with the assistance of AISP Director Dr. Susan Applegate Krouse, assembled archaeologists and Indigenous peoples from the Great Lakes, the American Southwest, and Australia. This event explored practices and policies in the preservation and presentation of Indigenous heritage. The program attracted Native and non-Native students and faculty from MSU, University of Michigan, University of Michigan-Flint, Central Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, and archaeologists and museum professionals from federal, tribal, and state organizations.



Above: Indigenous Archaeology symposium participants

Other events sponsored this year by the American Indian Studies Program included a visit from Anishinaabe author David Truer, who gave a reading and meet with MSU faculty and graduate students. Truer read from his new books *The Translation of Dr Apelles: A Love Story* and an essay collection *Native American Fiction: A User's Manual*.

AISP also hosted a night of Anishnaabemowin music performed by Diiva miinwaa Davis (comprised of Helen Roy and David Fuhst). Helen and David sang popular songs with lyrics translated into Anishnaabemowin (Ojibwe language).



Below: Helen Roy and David Fuhst perform as Diiva Miinwaa Davis



Above: Anishnaabe author David Truer with WRAC faculty Malea Powell

Graduate Student Achievements

L. Rain Cranford (American Studies PhD Program) is the new Area Co-Chair of the Native/Indigenous Studies Area, Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association Annual Regional Conferences. She published poems "Old Crowdad the Fisherman" and "When Rabbit Smokes," in *ToTopos Poetry International: Ahani: Indigenous American Poetry*, edited by Alison A. Hedge Coke.

Qwo-Li Driskill (WRAC PhD Program) Forthcoming "Dancing Strong Our Nations: Traditional Performance and Healing in Maurice Kenny's Poetry," in *Maurice Kenny*, Penny Kelsey and Erika Wurth, editors. Qwo-Li also published a short play "Bird Names in Lenape" and the poems "Cherokee Ghazal," "Manifesto" and "Seismology and Tectonics," in *Yellow Medicine Review*.

Qwo-Li was a student and performer in the ensemble play, *Songs Gathered in Stones: Stories from the Four Directions* at the Centre for Indigenous Theatre's Summer Program

Angela Marie Haas (WRAC PhD Program) received a Merit Fellowship award this 2007 year from the College of Arts & Letters .

Megan McCullen (Anthropology PhD candidate) received a three month CIC Newberry Fellowship to conduct historical research for her dissertation on Huron/Wyandot migration in the seventeenth century.

Melissa Rinehart (Anthropology) Forthcoming publications "'You Can't Marry Family?': Intermarriage in Miami Indian Communities," in *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies, Special Issue on*

Intermarriage in Indigenous History: Explorations in Power and Intimacy in North America, and "The Agency of Language Ideologies in Miami Indian Language Recovery," in *Ethnographic Contributions to the Study of Endangered Languages*, Tania Granadillo and Heidi Orcutt-Gachiri, editors.



Crane medallion beadwork by Malea Powell

American Indian Studies Program

American Indian Studies
Michigan State University
414 Baker Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
Phone: 517-432-2193
E-mail: aisp@msu.edu
www.aisp.msu.edu

The College of Arts and Letters

The College of Social Science

Michigan State University

This year's conferences...

Phil Bellfy (Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures) "Sustainable? Development? The Next Twenty Years?" LAKESNET Great Lakes Regional Conference.

Suzanne Cross (Social Work) "Working on the Frontlines: Social Workers' response to the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978" Indian Child Welfare Conference, MSU Indigenous Law and Policy Center; "The Impact of American Indian Boarding Schools – Revelation, Reverberation and Resiliency" National Association of Social Workers, Michigan Chapter.

Ellen Cushman (WRAC) was invited by the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma to present at the 2006 Sequoyah Convention convened in the Cherokee Casino during the Nation's holiday. She was introduced by former Chief Wilma Mankiller. Her talk discussed recent new media educational websites that MSU students have done in collaboration with the Cherokee Nation.

Kim Lee (Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures) "Braiding the Rope: Interweaving Introductions to Sandoz's Crazy Horse" Mari Sandoz Heritage Society; "Story Within Song: Buffy St. Marie and Peter LaFarge" What's Next for Native American and Indigenous Studies? Meeting.

William Lovis (Anthropology) "NAGPRA: Background, Legislative History and Museum

Compliance" Caring for Our Collections: Using Best Museum Practices to help Preserve our Past, Present, and Future, Kingman Museum.

John Norder (Anthropology) co-organized the session "Diversity and Change in Archeology" at the Society for American Archeology Conference.

Malea Powell (Writing Rhetoric and American Cultures) "From Inscription to Identity: Inscripting the Culture of the Discipline" Conference on College Composition and Communication; "Teaching Indigenous Nations Amidst Transnationalizing Currents" American Studies Association.

Le Anne Silvey (Family and Child Ecology) "A Study of Native American Beliefs and Values" American Association of Behavioral Social Scientists; "ICWA: A Decade of Practice and Lessons Learned" Indian Child Welfare Conference, MSU Indigenous Law and Policy Center.

L. Rain Cranford (American Studies PhD Program) "In[digital]nous Voices: American NDN Memories and Indigenous Communities in Digital Space" American Studies Association; "Crawdadd Baskets: Weaving Red Black Basketry Narratives in the Southeast" Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association Conference; "Bayou Baskets: Weaving TriRacial Indian Narratives Towards Cultural

Sovereignty" CIC American Indian Studies Graduate Student Conference.

Qwo-Li Driskill (WRAC PhD Program) "Red is the New Pink: Indigenizing Queer Theory, Formulating Two-Spirit Critiques" What's Next for Native American and Indigenous Studies? Meeting.

Angela Marie Haas (WRAC PhD Program) "Power & Place: Considering a Visual Cultural Rhetorics Pedagogy" Computers & Writing Conference; "Wampum as Hypertext: An Indian Intellectual Tradition of Multimedia Theory & Practice" What's Next for Native American and Indigenous Studies? Meeting; "Native Blogospheres: Indians Writing in Not-so-unexpected Spaces" American Indian Studies Program Wordcraft Workshop; "On Material Rhetorics and the Canon of Memoria: Rethinking the History (and Future) of Rhetoric" Conference on College Composition and Communication.

Stuart David Willis (History PhD Candidate) is presenting at the 2007 Atlantic Studies Workshop "The Four Corners of the Atlantic."