

American Indian Studies Program

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Spring 2008



The Year in Review

It has been another exciting year in the American Indian Studies Program. We continued to sponsor many of our annual events, including Michigan Indian Day, the Ojibwe Language Quiz Bowl, and the Ojibwe Language Pow Wow. In addition, we were thrilled to bring Dr. Sarah Hill, an expert on Southeastern Indian basketry, to campus in the fall, and to reinvigorate the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers by hosting the Returning the Gift Conference for them this spring.

In addition to all of these events on campus, we sent many of our own faculty and students to conferences and programs elsewhere. Six of our students presented at the CIC American Indian Studies Graduate Conference at Purdue University in April, and the following week fifteen MSU faculty and students presented at the second annual Native American and Indigenous Studies Conference at the University of Georgia. They were all sporting our new MSU-AISP pins, crafted by our director, Dr. Susan Applegate Krouse. In addition to these programs, many of our faculty and students presented on AISP research at their own discipline-specific conferences and events.

We are pleased to have several new undergraduates in our specialization this year, along with three new faculty. AISP is growing here at MSU!



Alice Azure reads one of her poems to Jim Northrup at the Returning the Gift Conference, held at MSU in March 2008.

Congratulations to our Graduate Students who are moving on:

Qwo-Li Driskill (PhD in Rhetoric & Writing)

Tenure Stream Faculty in English at Texas A&M University

C. Joseph Genetin-Pilawa (PhD in History)

Tenure Stream Faculty in History at Illinois College

Angela Haas (PhD in Rhetoric & Writing)

Tenure Stream Faculty in English at Illinois State University

Emily Proctor (Masters in Social Work) - Extension Educator with MSU Extension

Pre-Doctoral Fellow in American Indian Studies

This year, we were honored to have Chantal Norrgard, a graduate student in History at the University of Minnesota, as our Pre-Doctoral Fellow in American Indian Studies.

Chantal has spent the bulk of her time over the last year completing her dissertation, *Seasons of Change: Treaty Rights, Labor, and the Historical Memory of Work Among Lake Superior Chippewa, 1870-1942*. In her dissertation, Chantal looks at the ways in which Ojibwe navigated the dramatic economic, political, and social changes of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, through the lens of their labor. Within the context of this story she highlights early Ojibwe resistance to state fish and game regulations, which paved the way for later treaty rights struggles. Central to her study are the ways in which Ojibwe themselves perceived and discussed their response to these changes.

At the crux of her research, Chantal utilizes a collection of over 300 essays written as part of a Works Progress Administration project on the Bad River reservation, as well as additional histories from the Grand Portage, Fond du Lac, and Red Cliff reservations.

In addition to this research, Chantal has become an active member of the American Indian Studies Program here at MSU. She taught a section of History 201, Historical Methods & Skills, Indians in the Twentieth Century. In the fall, Chantal will begin a two year post-doctoral fellowship in History and Ethnic Studies at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin.



Chantal Norrgard, AISP

Pre-Doctoral Fellow 2007-08

Fall Highlights: Michigan Indian Day & Visit from Sarah Hill

Early in the fall, the School of Social Work hosted its annual Michigan Indian Day Event, organized by Dr. Suzanne Cross and Emily Proctor (MSW Student). The primary purpose of this event is to give social workers an opportunity for continuing education with a specific focus on the needs of Native American community members. Our keynote speakers were Pricilla Day and Don Day, who discussed raising healthy Anishinaabeg children, and the detrimental effects of Native American mascots, respectively. Many of the workshops included AISP faculty, and one of our workshops featured current Anishinaabeg MSW students Emily Proctor and Don Lyons, who had field placements with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe this year.



MSW Students Emily Proctor and Don Lyons discuss their field placement in tribal communities at Michigan Indian Day.

Also in the fall semester, we had the privilege of hosting Dr. Sarah Hill on campus for a few days. Dr. Hill specializes in researching Southeastern basket making. She presented a lecture on basket making at the MSU Museum, and was able to show examples of Southeastern baskets from the museum collection. The following day, some of the basket makers within our program, along with other interested faculty and students, had the opportunity to examine the full American Indian basket collection housed at the MSU Museum, with collections manager Lynne Swanson.



As part of her visit, Dr. Sarah Hill (center), seen here with Cultural Collections Manager Lynne Swanson (left) and AISP Director Dr. Susan Applegate Krouse (right) explored the MSU Museum's extensive Native American basket collection with interested faculty and students.

The next Michigan Indian Day will be held Friday September 28th, 2008, at the MSU Union. Check our website in the fall for more information.

Dylan Miner (Michif) is Assistant Professor of Transcultural Studies in the new Residential College of Arts & Humanities. Dr. Miner presented a workshop entitled "Aboriginality, Art, and Anti-Colonialism: Writing About Contemporary Native Art" for the Returning the Gift Conference. He also helped to bring Edgar Heap of Birds, a Native American activist/artist to the university for a brief visit this year to prepare for a two week residency here in 2008-09.

Dr. Miner's research and teaching center on the cultural expressions of Indigenous and working-class struggle, while his artistic practice functions as an anti-colonial device. He is particularly interested in the relationship between radical theory and contemporary Indigenous visual practice.

New AISP Faculty

Robert Hitchcock came to MSU as the Chair of the Department of Anthropology in the Fall of 2006. This year, he became an affiliated faculty member of AISP. Dr. Hitchcock works primarily with !San communities in Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe, though his work involves indigenous communities across the United States and Latin America as well. He is actively involved in indigenous land and water rights claims, and peace and justice efforts throughout southern Africa. Additionally, he has been working with Native American resource management programs in the Great Plains. We welcome his global indigenous perspective.

Bill Penn (Nez Perce & Osage) is a professor of Creative Writing in the English Department, and a welcome addition to the AISP. Dr. Penn is a novelist, and has written and edited numerous books and essays, including *As We Are Now: Mixblood Essays on Race and Identity*, *The Telling of the World: Native American Stories and Art* and *Killing Time with Strangers*. In 2003, Dr. Penn won a Michigan State University Distinguished Faculty Award. Dr. Penn is also one of the founding members of the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers, and presented a workshop called "Fidgey: Saying What You Have to Tell" at this year's Returning the Gift Conference.

Ojibwe Language Weekend

Here at MSU we are very proud of our Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe Language) programs and courses, led by Professor Helen Roy (Wikwemikong Unceded Land Reserve). This year, Professor Roy and Dr. Mindy Morgan (Anthropology) combined our two annual language events into one exciting Anishinaabemowin weekend held at the new Residential College of Arts & Humanities.

On Friday night, we had Quiz Bowl! Our second year Anishinaabemowin students quizzed the first year students, and the entire event was in the language. Audience members also won participation prizes for vocabulary and correct pronunciation. We had several children and teenagers in the audience, and they seemed to be the best at Anishinaabemowin.

Saturday was even more fun, as we held our annual language powwow. Professor

Roy emceed the entire event in Anishinaabemowin, and we had a variety of dance styles for her to talk about in the language. In addition to our twelve invited dancers and two invited drums, several other community members participated in the powwow. We were greatly honored by an unexpected guest, a hoop dancer who danced beautifully!

Chi miigwetch to everyone who participated, and to all those who helped make these event happen. The whole weekend was a great community event, as students and faculty, joined local (and not-so-local!) community members to celebrate culture and language. We were especially glad to have so much participation from younger members of our community. We hold these language events every year, so if you missed out, please join us next year.



Top: Second year language students quiz first year students on their language abilities.

Bottom: Men Traditional Dancers at the Language Powwow. Professor Helen Roy emceed in Anishinaabemowin and translations in English were displayed behind the dancers.

Returning the Gift: Native Writers Conference



Above: AISP Faculty Malea Powell and Kim Lee enjoying time with Bonita Nelson at Returning the Gift.

Left: Asani practices song creating during a Returning the Gift Workshop

Several of the workshops at Returning the Gift were presented by our own faculty and students:

- Dr. Ellen Cushman (WRAC)
- Qwo-Li Driskill (Rhetoric & Writing)
- Angela Haas (Rhetoric & Writing)
- Dr. Dylan Miner (RCAH)
- Dr. Bill Penn (English)
- Dr. Malea Powell (WRAC)
- Prof. Helen Roy (Linguistics & Languages)

Special thanks to our Returning the Gift sponsors:

- The College of Arts and Letters Year of Arts & Culture
- Rhetoric & Writing Program
- Canadian Studies Centre
- Integrative Studies in Arts & Humanities
- Residential College in the Arts & Humanities
- College of Communication Arts & Sciences
- Department of English
- Department of History
- MSU Press

In March, the American Indian Studies Program hosted Returning the Gift, A Native Writers Conference, at the MSU Union. Returning the Gift is coordinated with the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers, and focuses on bringing together writers and storytellers of all levels to teach and inspire each other. Over 100 Native writers and storytellers joined us for this program, coming from as far away as British Columbia and California. Workshops included events on poetry, performance, comic books, storytelling, and the importance of indigenous languages.

In addition to the workshops, we had two wonderful nights of readings and stories which were open to the whole community. We were pleased to have several individuals from Michigan Indian communities in

attendance, in addition to those who came from more distant communities in Utah and California.

One of the highlights of the conference was the return of *Asani* to East Lansing. You may remember *Asani*, who performed at the Great Lakes Folk Festival in the summer of 2007. This Cree/Metis women's singing group presented a workshop on Song Creating at Returning the Gift, and performed at our conference banquet. As part of their performance, they brought all their Song Creators up on stage and they all sang for us, what a treat! The whole conference was inspiring, and we are sure many wonderful writings and performances will come from the projects that were started here.

If you are interested in learning more about Wordcraft, you can find their website at <http://www.wordcraftcircle.org>.



American Indian Studies Program

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

The College of Arts and Letters

The College of Social Science

Michigan State University

Some Recent Awards and Publications:

Ahimsa Timoteo Bodhrán (Doctoral Candidate, American Studies) received a Research Enhancement Award and an Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Teaching Fellowship from James Madison College and the Graduate School.

Dr. Suzanne Cross (Social Work) published "The impact of alcohol abuse" in *Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs* 2:7-9.

Qwo-Li Driskill (Doctoral Candidate, Writing & Rhetoric) received a Scholars for the Dream Award to attend the Conference on College Composition and Communication.

Angela Haas (Doctoral Candidate, Writing & Rhetoric) published "Wampum as Hypertext: An American Indian Intellectual Tradition of Multimedia Theory and Practice" *Studies in American Indian Literatures* 19(4):77-100.

Dr. Robert Hitchcock (Anthropology) published "The Central Kalahari Game Reserve Legal Case: A Landmark Decision for Indigenous Rights in Botswana?" *Cultural Survival Quarterly* 31(4) with W. Babchuk.

Dr. Susan Applegate Krouse (Anthropology) published her book *North American Indians in the Great War* with the University of Nebraska Press.

Dr. William Lovis (Anthropology) published "A Multi-regional Analysis of AMS and Radiometric Dates from Carbonized Food Residues" *Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology* 32(2):201-260, with J. P. Hart.

Don Lyons (MSW Student) received a Homer Higbee International Education Award from MSU.

Dr. Dylan Miner (RCAH) published "Red (Pedal) Power: Natives, Bikes, and Anti-Colonial Art." in *Do Not Park Bicycles!: Aboriginal Bike Culture*, ed. Jenny Western. (Art Museum of Southwest Manitoba, Brandon, MB).

Dr. John Norder (Anthropology) published "Iktomi in the Land of the Maymaygwayshi: Understanding Lived Experience in the Practice of Archaeology Among American Indians/First Nations" *Archaeologies* 3(3):230-248.

Dr. Jodie A. O'Gorman (Anthropology) published "The Myth of Moccasin Bluff - Rethinking the Potawatomi Pattern" *Ethnohistory* 54(3):373-406.

Emily Proctor (MSW Student) received a Student Leadership in Diversity Award from the Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Dr. Rocio Quispe-Agnoli (Spanish & Portuguese) published "Prácticas indígenas de la resistencia: sujetos de la escritura y el saber en los Andes coloniales" *Revista Iberoamericana* LXXIII.220.

Dr. Le Anne Silvey (Family & Child Ecology) published "A Study of Native American Beliefs and Values" *American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences Journal* with R. J. Griffiore and L. A. Phenice.

Undergraduate Specialization

Currently, we have 16 students working toward an Undergraduate Specialization in American Indian Studies. Each of these students must take at least 18 credits of American Indian Studies coursework and complete an internship. Additionally, over the past year there were 11 AISP affiliated courses offered, with a total enrollment of 325 students.

2008 Graduate: Michele Zanskas

Michele Zanskas is graduating with a B.A. in Anthropology, and the American Indian Studies Specialization. For her internship, Michele worked in the Lansing School District's Indian Education Program. Michele worked with director Becky Roy, helping with home visits, tutoring, and organizing events like the Ghost Supper at Cristo Rey Community Center. She is heading to graduate school in Anthropology and American Indian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the fall.

For a list of upcoming AISP courses, or more information on the specialization, please check our website at <http://www.aisp.msu.edu>.