

# Indigenous Earth Issues Summit



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The 2nd annual Indigenous Earth Issues Summit is made possible by  
the NMU Center for Native American Studies  
with generous support from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

## Anishinaabe News

c/o Center for Native American Studies  
Northern Michigan University  
1401 Presque Isle Avenue  
Marquette, Michigan 49855



# Anishinaabe News

Fall 2008 Volume 5, Issue 2

### Happy New Year!

On behalf of everyone at the NMU Center for Native American Studies,  
*nia:wen/miigwech/thank you*  
for a wonderful year in 2008.

We've accomplished a lot with a little. We've met a lot of wonderful people from Rev. Kevin Annett to D.J. Vanas; from Tillie Black Bear to the aboriginal delegation from Australia (and so many more).

There are many exciting possibilities on the horizon for the Center in 2009. We hope you will be there. There will be new people to meet, new challenges to face, new problems to solve, new questions to answer.

Embrace your new year with gusto.  
I shall try as well!

Sincerely,  
April E. Lindala, Director

### Inside this Issue

Native American Heritage  
Month events  
\*  
Student programs  
from NAS 204  
\*  
Photos from Fall 2008  
and more.

### Grammy-award winner Joanne Shenandoah visits NMU.

**By Grace Chailier** - Award winning singer, songwriter, and educator Joanne Shenandoah performed at Kaufman Auditorium on a blustery Saturday, November 8 evening as part of the NMU International Performing Arts Series. Shenandoah, who won a Grammy in 2006 for her Songs of the Spirit album, is an eleven-time Native American Music Award winning artist and a Haudenosaunee woman of wolf Clan descent. Dressed in a black velvet top and floor-length black velvet skirt, Shenandoah played guitar, beginning the performance with a song from her Once in a Red Moon album. She said the piece was "recorded long ago about our mother, a living and breathing spirit who keeps giving to us." The artist that the Associated Press called "the most critically acclaimed Native American singer of her time" crooned:

*Hear my beating heart.  
Don't steal my thunder.  
Don't break my heart.  
I'm your mother,  
Hear my beating heart.*

(See "Shenandoah" continued on pg 2)



Hannahville Indian School student Einisha Hill joins Shenandoah on stage.

### Award winning musician Wade Fernandez performs at NMU

**by Sam Hill** - The atmosphere at Wade's concert on November 13 was very relaxing. Once seated, you could see flutes, a guitar, and some pedals, a very simple set up on stage. I felt like he was performing for us in someone's living room, it felt so comfortable and intimate. There was a medium sized crowd seated, ready to hear Wade Fernandez (Menominee). Craig Meshigaud, member of the Native American Students Association, introduced him, and Wade performed a lovely flute song. The way he played the wooden flute was very soothing to listen to. After awhile he added some guitar rhythms, which made his music sound almost whimsical. I was amazed at his ability to play the flute and his guitar at the same time.

Continued on pg. 5



Wade Fernandez taking a break between songs. Photo by Sam Hill.

(Shenandoah continued from pg 1)

Shenandoah informed the audience that "speaking of our mother", a movie she'd starred in as a Native nurse and cook was now available in video stores. The film has a global warming message and is titled The Last Winter.

"In the Iroquois way, we ask, does anyone have any trouble?" she said. After the laughter subsided she continued, "Take that trouble and roll it up to the front of the room. It will be here for you when we finish this evening." More laughter. This putting cares temporarily aside is a part of the Iroquois Theory of the Good Mind.

Shenandoah informed listeners that her Haudenosaunee name means "she sings." She told of having worked in corporate America before coming to the decision in 1990 that she needed to sing. She contacted her sister Diane, who sat near her on the Kaufman stage, and asked her to perform also. Throughout the concert, Shenandoah turned to catch Diane's eye and smile.

Having come from a matriarchal culture, Shenandoah performed a series of songs to "honor the women." Several were recorded on the Matriarch album and one was written in honor of the release of the Sacajawea coin and performed in Washington, DC, at the request of then first lady Hillary Clinton. With regard to misbehaving men, Shenandoah stated that in the Iroquois way, women who want to rid

themselves of their damaging husbands take the men's belongings and place them either outside the home or on his mother's doorstep. Again, laughter.

Shenandoah explained that she has recorded many different songs that remind her of specific women. She sang her sister Diane's song. She discussed her feelings on the power of song by stating, "Healers say if you sing along with songs, you will be healed."

She called Dan Truckey, Beaumier Heritage Center Curator and director of the Performing Arts Series up onstage to play guitar, and she moved to the grand piano. She then addressed Einisha Hill, a young Mohawk woman and part of a Hannahville Indian Community student group, asking her to join the growing assemblage onstage. She sang a friendship song with Einisha and urged everyone to sing.

More of the Hannahville students were encouraged onstage, as were other audience members. The first half of the concert ended with audience members round dancing in the aisles.

Back from Intermission, Shenandoah sang another song from the Matriarch album and then a tribute song to Lori Piestewa, the young Navajo mother

who was the first Native American woman killed in combat while serving in America's armed forces. She recommended that everyone access a tribute she performed to Piestewa, who gave her life in Iraq, on YouTube.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=71mj7dkOp14](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71mj7dkOp14)



Joanne signs something for a fan.

Shenandoah said she has released fourteen albums and she must sing one song from each album so the audience won't know which one to buy. This, she said, "is an old Indian trick."

She endorsed nurturing one's gifts saying, "Our gift is a responsibility. Though I've won many awards, what counts is the message behind the music."

She explained how talented her sister Diane is, a degreed art major, and a critically acclaimed sculptor and jewelry maker, some of whose work was available for purchase in the lobby.

Diane has been playing a large, red-painted hand drum with a bird in flight painted on it throughout the performance.



Diane Shenandoah. Photo by Grace Chaillier.

She explained that she has learned that her generation is the seventh generation since her ancestor,

Chief Shenandoah, lived among her people. She thinks of that as she sings "When the Eagle Calls."

*When the Eagle calls,  
When the Eagle cries,  
Don't run away,  
Don't turn and hide,  
Join hands as one,  
Hold your head up high,  
When the Eagle calls.*

Shenandoah moved into the lobby after the concert. Fans pressed close in the Kaufman reception area as she signed autographs and posed for photos with admirers.

## A peace offering Interfaith Thanksgiving Service 2008

**By Nancy Irish:** First, I'd like to say a special thank you to Kenn Pitawanakwat for delaying his journey home to Canada in order to be with us. Chi miigwetch, Kenn. The first Thanksgiving is a lovely story - the struggling Pilgrims holding a feast to express gratitude to their God and to their new friends who helped them survive. We want so badly for the spirit of that story, whatever the factual truth in it, to be frozen in time; that the goodwill at the heart of the story be the essence of an enduring friendship between the Europeans and the people they met here in the "new world", that was new only to the Europeans. But of course we know that the Thanksgiving story didn't end that way.

Desmond Tutu of South Africa wrote of a similar experience,

"When the missionaries came to Africa they had the Bible and we had the land. They said, 'Let us pray.' We closed our eyes. When we opened them we had the Bible and they had the land." We know the story of this troubled relationship is being written still. It is easy for non-Indians to forget, in the warmth and love that surrounds us as we celebrate Thanksgiving with our friends and family, that this holiday may be mixed with darker emotions for some. How many daily insults and grievances do our Indian neighbors suffer in silence? How would we know, if we never ask? If we never read Native American literature or see films made by American Indians? As long as we turn a deaf, indifferant ear to our Anishnaabe

brothers and sisters, there will be darkness on Thanksgiving Day. But there must always be reason to hope. In a campaign address to American Indian nations, President Elect Barack Obama said, "I understand the tragic history between the United States and tribal nations. We have to acknowledge that truth if we're going to move forward in a fair and honest way." Indeed, Truth and Reconciliation Commissions are springing up here in the U.S., in Canada, and all over the world as governments are beginning to attempt reconciliation with indigenous peoples by understanding that "the healing begins when the wounding stops," and that only the truth will set us free.

The Tao de Ching reminds us that the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step, right under our feet. I say we begin a long and complex journey simply. Not simplistically, but simply. Robert Fulghum, a Unitarian Universalist minister, wrote:

"All I really need to know about how to live, what to do, and how to be, I learned in kindergarten. Share. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. When you hurt someone, say you're sorry. When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together. LOOK." I would add - LISTEN.

We can't even begin to scratch the surface of centuries of dishonorable conduct in one interfaith Thanksgiving service, or in twenty, or a hundred. An effort toward a just peace and genuine reconciliation with our Anishnaabe neighbors would take a long, concerted, and committed effort by many people. I don't even know if there is the will for such an effort. I, for one, hope so.

The NMU Native American Student Association invites you to the 17<sup>th</sup> annual "Learning to Walk Together" traditional pow wow. It is right around the corner! This year's pow wow will be a ONE-DAY event.

Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Vandament Arena\* NMU campus \*Marquette, Mich.  
Feast at the Jacobetti Center  
THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME.!



For more information or to volunteer E-mail us at [nasa@nmu.edu](mailto:nasa@nmu.edu), or call 906-227-1397. Visit our Web site at [www.nmu.edu/nativeamericans](http://www.nmu.edu/nativeamericans)

This year's pow wow is made possible by the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS  
A great nation  
deserves great art.

## Photo Gallery - Native Month & Other Events Fall Semester 2008



1. Wade Fernandez poses with NMU student Maryanne Brown, NAS Faculty Grace Chaillier, NASA Chair Sam Hill, and NAS Faculty Leann Miller.
2. Joanne Shenandoah takes a break from her workshop to take a photo with Beaumier Heritage Center Director, Dan Truckey and Center for Native American Studies Director, April Lindala.
3. Joanne and her sister Diane play and sing for their Hannahville audience.
4. Hannahville students round dance during Joanne Shenandoah's workshop performance.
5. Wade Fernandez performing for his audience, Thursday, November 13, 2008.
6. NASA member, Jalessa Schuyler, is ready to start cooking for the First Nations Food Taster!
7. Carving a turkey for the First Nations Food Taster, November 7, 2008.
8. Dr. Adriana Greci Green helps her NAS 204 students during a beading workshop.
9. NAS 204 student, Andrew Post, works on his Peyote stitch keychain.
10. April Lindala guides a student through her first Peyote stitches.
11. Audience members speak with Michael Robinson following his presentation.
12. Dr. Martin Reinhardt tells a story for the Oral Traditions course.
13. Storyteller, Jim St. Arnold illustrates his tale for the Oral Traditions course.



## Shenandoah Holds Workshop

**By BJ Bosco** - The morning of Saturday, November 8, I had the privilege of attending a workshop by Joanne Shenandoah and her sister, Diane. The sisters' visit to NMU was thanks to the International Performing Arts Series, overseen by Dan Truckey, Director of the Beaumier Heritage Center at NMU. Held in the Whitman Hall commons, the \*first workshop was held for a group of visiting Hannahville students. The visiting group of students also took a campus tour and planned to see Shenandoah's concert later that evening at the Kaufman Auditorium in Marquette.



Photo: A. Lindala

Shenandoah started the morning by conversing with the students, asking them about their likes, their hopes, their goals, and telling them a little about her own. She told stories of when she first began to sing, and how she deals with sore throats, keeping herself in top singing shape. She and Diane then played and sang for them, accompanied by Truckey on guitar. She encouraged everyone to sing along with her. During a short break Diane showed examples of her artwork, photos of sculptures, as well as actual pieces of jewelry she had handcrafted.



Photo: A. Lindala

One student, Einisha Hill, recorded an interview with Joanne for the student-run program "Rezz Radio" produced by students at the Hannahville Indian School. Shenandoah was all smiles throughout the morning, giving students tips on writing and singing. She ended the workshop by inviting the students on-stage at her concert that evening, and they practiced a song, dancing around the perimeter of the Commons. After the workshop she and Diane joined the group of students for lunch at the Wildcat Den.



Shenandoah answers questions by Hannahville student, Einisha Hill, for Rezz Radio.

*\*There was to be a second workshop scheduled for NMU students and the general public, but was canceled due to lack of attendance.*

Dr. Adriana Greci Green (CNAS) is pleased to announce the award of a MetLife Foundation grant (\$100,000) to the Detroit Institute of Arts in support of an Anishinaabe arts exhibition project. This grant will be dedicated to creating a traveling exhibition designed for community-based Native American cultural centers, bringing the museum to underserved audiences throughout the Great Lakes Region in the United States and Canada. Partnering institutions are the Saginaw Chippewa Ziibiwing Museum in Mt. Pleasant and the Ojibwa Cultural Foundation on Manitoulin Island. Dr. Greci Green is part of the steering and advisory committee for this project.



April Lindala shows students her technique. Photo by BJ Bosco

### Rosette beading class held

The first beading class of the semester was taught by April Lindala on Wednesday, October 29. Ten students attended and were taught how to make rosette beaded earrings. It was a fun and relaxing night getting to know each other over our beadwork. We listened to Joanne Shenandoah and Wade Fernandez (both of whom visited NMU's campus this semester). Several of us finished at least one earring before the end of the night. This beading class was part of the Native American Student Empowerment Initiative. Watch for more events like this during the Winter 2009 semester.

## Anishinaabe Language impacts other areas of education

**By James Van Eck II-** As a student of the Anishinaabe, both verbally and culturally, I am blessed with the understanding of an entire people's culture and history other than my own.

For the last three semesters I have been taking at least one Anishinaabe class, while at the same time laughing, learning, and understanding life a little bit more than I did before. The past two semesters I have taken, specifically, NAS 101 and 102, the Anishinaabe Language, Culture, and Community classes. I have learned so much from these classes, yet I realize that I know so little at the same time. It wasn't until December 1, 2008 that I realized how much knowledge I have truly attained.

I sat with my fellow students in a large Sociology class lecture room. We watched the documentary "Manoomin (Wild Rice): Ojibwe Spirit Food" produced and directed by NMU's own sociology professor, Michael Loukinen. We were learning about this food and its role in Anishinaabe Madzowin (life). As I watched this film there was a scene showing the late spiritual elder Archie McGeshick Sr. giving a prayer in Anishinaabe for a good harvest and a blessing over their crop. I sat and watched, amazed that I was capable of understanding his prayer.

Unfortunately I wasn't able to comprehend every word, but his point was very clear to me. I chuckled, knowing I was probably the only one out of the entire class (close to 100 people) that could translate his

words. It truly opened my eyes as to how much I have

acquired of something that only a handful of people have—an ability, an understanding, and the knowledge to link myself with a people that do not have their own country, that do not have a massive population, and do not have that many fluent speakers.

*Manoomin: Ojibwe Spirit Food* can be found in the CNAS Resource Room and is available for viewing at the CNAS.

### Student Project for NAS 204

Michael Treacy chose to build a Native American style hand drum for his NAS 204 - Native American Experience class project.

Coming from an Irish-American background, Michael chose this style of drum due to its similarity to the Irish bodhrán. The construction of the drum has been documented in a power point presentation and is available in the CNAS Resource room for anyone interested in viewing Michael's techniques.

[side note: many NAS 204 student projects have been donated to the CNAS Resource Room. We thank them for their work. Anyone is able to visit and see these works.]



"Ricing". Photo from [www.upnorthfilms.org](http://www.upnorthfilms.org)



Michael Treacy with his finished hand drum. Photo by: April Lindala

Seats are still open for a few of the classes offered by the Center for Native American Studies (CNAS).

**"Anishinaabe Language, Culture and Community I" with Kenn Pitawanakwat still has seats available. The Center is working to build a large base of students so that future classes such as NAS 102 and even NAS 201/202 will be offered and available. (see story regarding Furthering Anishinaabe Language on next page).**

**Grace Chaillier is once again teaching "History of Indian Boarding School Education." This class will begin the week of January 12 and will be Tuesdays/Thursdays at 4-5:40 p.m. It is scheduled a bit late in the day to encourage community members to sign up.**

**Another course is Aimee Cree Dunn's NAS 342 - "Indigenous Environmental Movements." This is a political course. Members of this class will be vital to the Indigenous Earth Issues Summit to be held on Monday, April 6, 2009.**

**The Native American Service Learning Project - NAS 488, is no longer limited to NAS minor students. Anyone wishing to take part in this course can sign up. Dr. Adriana Gregi Green is the instructor for Winter 2009.**

### April's Tiny Tidbit

Great gift idea for any time of the year! A smart alternative to plastic shopping bags. On sale now at the CNAS—112 Whitman Hall for \$12.



Annett's documentary made me cry and brought me back to that day on the French-German border. A day I will never forget. More people need to never forget.

I am so proud of Kevin Annett for having the courage to take a stand and defend what is right. Not many would have stood firm in all that he faced. Hearing his story gives me courage. I will not just live in this world and let someone else take care of it. Now, when my own courage falters, I will think of Kevin Annett and I will continue on the right path.

For more information on Kevin Annett and Canada's Genocide, visit [www.hiddenfromhistory.org](http://www.hiddenfromhistory.org)

### NAS 204 students learn to Peyote stitch

Dr. Adriana Greci Green's NAS 204 class, The Native American Experience, had a Peyote stitch workshop on Monday, November 24, 2008, led by guest presenter April Lindala. Students made key chains with an option of three colored beads, white, black, and red.

The purpose of the workshop was to "give students experiential appreciation for Native Art," says Dr. Greci Green. The students were interested and engaged in the activity, and said they hope it will be repeated for NAS 204 classes to come.



April Lindala demonstrates how to make the first stitch. Photo by BJ Bosco

### 2009-2010 Fellowship applications available

The Indian Arts Research Center (IARC) in Santa Fe, New Mexico is accepting applications from Native and First Nations artists for its upcoming fellowships in 2009 and 2010. The deadline to apply is Thursday, January 15, 2009.

The Ronald and Susan Dubin Fellowship (June 15-August 15, 2009), Rollin and Mary Ella King Fellowship (September 1-December 1, 2009), and the Eric and Barbara Dobkin Fellowship for Native Women (March 1-May 31, 2010) support Native American and First Nations artists at the Indian Arts Research Center at the School of Advanced Research in any medium.

Each artist-in-residence fellowship includes: a \$3,000 per month stipend, housing, a studio, as well as travel and material allowances.

Applications for the 2009-2010 fellowships can be downloaded at [www.sarweb.org/iarc/fellowships.htm](http://www.sarweb.org/iarc/fellowships.htm).

Questions may be directed to (505) 954-7205.

### This issue's Student Spotlight is dedicated to... Former CNAS Freshman Fellow gives Commencement Speech

**By Sam Hill—** I was excited at this fall's commencement ceremony as one of my close friends took the stage to address his fellow graduates. I had known Zach since he was a Freshman Fellow for Nish News in fall of 2004. Since then, he joined NASA and has helped out immensely with the past few First Nations Food Tasters and pow wows.



Zachary T. Ziegler  
Former CNAS Freshman Fellow  
Fall 2008 Commencement Speaker  
Photo by Sam Hill

Zach Ziegler, 22, from Mayville, Wisconsin looked just like any other student ready to graduate on Saturday morning. However, a true original, when Zach was first called to the podium to reveal his speech to the audience; he took out his camera and snapped a photo of his view from the stage at the Superior Dome. He stated that he just wanted to capture an image that he would most likely never see again.

Zach Ziegler studied music education during his four years here at NMU, but his speech didn't touch on his classes much. He began by asking the audience to sit back, relax, and close their eyes so they could imagine their first day here at NMU. Then, he told them to fast forward to

where they are now, while remembering all their favorite moments in between.

Zach mainly talked about how fulfilling the good times shared by friends are worth mentioning, rather than simply speaking about the academic aspect of college. He wanted to emphasize how important it is to not only get your education, but also enjoy yourself along the way. He recalled some of his fondest memories hanging out with friends in dorm rooms until four in the morning, not just working on all-nighters. He laughed while reminiscing about some of the crazy things he had done. While his speech was entertaining, especially to those who knew Zach and what fond memories he might have been conjuring up, it also had a great message to live life to its fullest.

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Letters to the Editor can be sent to:

Anishinaabe News  
Center for Native American Studies  
Northern Michigan University  
1401 Presque Isle  
Marquette, MI 49855

Editor-in-Chief  
BJ Bosco

Contributing Writers  
BJ Bosco  
Grace Chaillier  
Adriana Greci Green  
Sam Hill  
Nancy Irish  
April Lindala  
Kenn Pitawanakwat  
Kristy Walker-Treacy  
James Van Eck II

Contributing Editors  
Grace Chaillier  
April Lindala

Photos  
BJ Bosco  
Grace Chaillier  
Sam Hill  
April Lindala  
UpNorthfilms.org  
(and others unknown)

Advisor  
April Lindala

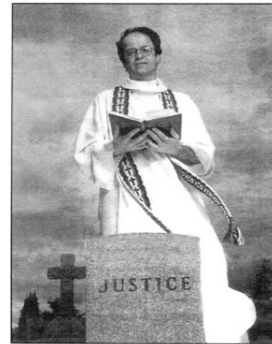
Letters to the Editor and guest editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Anishinaabe News, the Center for Native American Studies or Northern Michigan University.

When submitting a letter, it must be signed with a return address. We will consider requests for anonymity.

## A Challenging Path: Response to Kevin Annett's Unrepentant

**By Kristy Walker-Treacy** - My husband and I sat down to watch this documentary after Kevin Annett visited our Northern Michigan University classes in September. We both have been involved in several social, environmental and human rights movements. We consider ourselves activists. I really enjoyed meeting Kevin and am glad he inspired me to watch his documentary. I have known about indigenous

UNREPENTANT  
Kevin Annett and Canada's Genocide



Award-winning documentary film

genocide in the North America for more than a decade now and I wish that I could say that I was surprised by the extent of genocide that happened in Canada, but unfortunately I was not. I want to ask, how could this happen? I want to know why this was not stopped. I want to know how a grown man or woman could violate and harm a child and blatantly get away with it. I want to demand justice for the victims of such brutal and heinous crimes. But what justice can you offer for the murder of a people, not just bodily but culturally and spiritually?

I wish that I could understand how one group could decimate another and then turn its back on the survivors, denying them their right to mourn. I feel this is one of the most important aspects of the white man's denial of this atrocity. The Native peoples need, and should have, the right to bury and grieve for their loved ones who have passed, their

living that continue to suffer, and their culture. Denying the existence of this holocaust is denying the victims the ability to move beyond it. The governments of North America need to admit to their crimes against humanity and then they need to pay their restitution. I am not in any way suggesting that apology, recognition, and restitution are enough, but it is what they have to give and they need to give it. Now. The people have been waiting long enough.

In 1995, I worked in Germany and had an opportunity to visit a Nazi death camp on the French-German border. Reading books, watching films, and seeing photographs of such things is not enough. There is no way to understand what truly happened until you see it and feel it in person. It was the single most painful thing I have ever experienced. But I am glad that I did.

I read many books on the Nazi holocaust and saw many movies. I even took a college course on it. I felt that I was informed. I understood the terrible things that happened, or so I thought. I stepped off the bus on that chilly morning and I will never forget what I felt. It may sound strange to some, but I felt death, I smelled death, I heard and tasted it. In one moment everything I read and thought I knew about concentration camps was amplified tenfold. I could not stop the tears from streaming down my face. The suffering of so many is very hard to take in. When Kevin Annett speaks of the need for remembrance, a holocaust museum, I could not agree with him more. People must know what happened. People, Native and white, need to grieve for so much loss. Kevin

## Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to the  
December 2008 graduates!

Wendy Bell

\*

Dana Laporte

\*

Lars Larson

\*

Fredrick Livermore

Sarah Mannisto

\*

Christopher Oshelski

\*

Amber Payment

\*

Toni Rozich

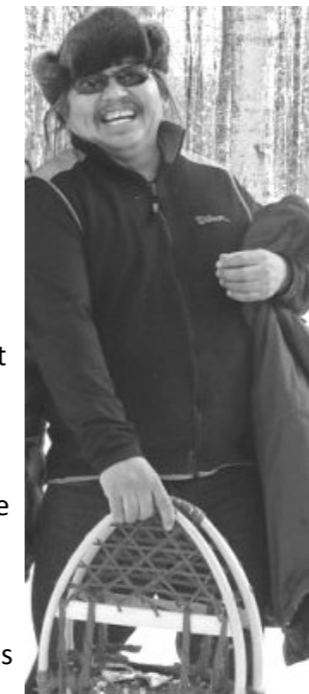
\*

Zachary Ziegler

*Good luck to all of you!*

## Further Anishinaabe Language offered in Winter '09

**By Kenn Pitawanakwat** - This winter semester, the Center for Native American Studies is offering its first Anishinaabe Language course focused on winter specific exercises in the Anishinaabe language. Excitement is mounting. NAS 298 is a 4-credit course and is a directed study in Native American Studies. This specific directed study will consist of outdoor and cultural vocabulary specific to third semester study. Developing a lexicon definite to winter travel, navigation, and basic survival skills will form the framework as the student builds on previous language competency and cultural awareness. Winter flora and fauna identification will be expanded. Students will meet for four hours



on Saturday mornings. Outdoor excursions by snowshoes on campus and Presque Isle will be the primary venues for study.

At the end of the course the student will achieve a level of competency specific to the exercise and winter elements.

Prerequisite is NAS Anishinaabe Language, Culture and Community 101 or by approval of the instructor.

For more information or to fill out a directed study form, contact the Center

for Native American Studies at 906-227-1397 or visit us on-line. [www.nmu.edu/nativeamericans](http://www.nmu.edu/nativeamericans)

(Fernandez continued from pg 1)

Wade was very down-to-earth as he explained his home life and his career to the audience. He spoke about jobs he had earlier in his life, and past college experiences attending UW-Milwaukee. He also talked a little about life on the Menominee Reservation. Probably the most comical moment of the night was when he played his music video for "Commodity Cheese Blues" and sang along with it. I highly recommend checking out this video, it was very funny.

Along with his songs, he had a projection screen to the left of the stage. During his beautiful songs he displayed a slide show of pictures. He sang one song about his family and showed photos of himself when he was younger, along with photos of his children and family. It was a great way to capture the audience and encapsulate his song and feelings through music and images.

Toward the end of his concert, he had everyone stand up and hold hands in a circle around the room. He proceeded to sing a two step song with his hand drum. He seemed to be making the words up as he went along by telling the audience to "go right", or "step to the left", or "watch out for the speakers!"

This was an interesting way of including the audience. Everyone seemed happy that they were able to learn a little more about Natives and the musical journey that Wade has been on.

And, I was happy to learn that I'm not the only one who enjoys commod cheese!

NAS 295: Special Topics

## History of Indian Boarding School Education

4 credits - Winter 2009

Tuesday & Thursday 4 - 5:40 p.m.

Ms. Grace Chaillier



For more information call 906-227-1397  
E-mail us at [cnas@nmu.edu](mailto:cnas@nmu.edu)  
Visit our Web site at [www.nmu.edu/nativeamericans](http://www.nmu.edu/nativeamericans)



Award-winning author MariJo Moore visited campus for Native American Heritage Month on Monday, November 10. Her presentation on the healing power of words was attended by both students and community members alike. The evening event which took place in the Payne/Halverson lobby, included words of wisdom from our guest as well as a sampling of her original works. Her humor is quick and put a smile on all of our faces. She slyly said, "if you have a question, put it down on a \$20 bill and hand them forward." The next morning she read original works to students in Amy Hamilton's Oral Traditions course.

## Have you heard what students have said about NAS 342-Indigenous Environmental Movements?

- \* The instructor lives the course she teaches and conveys her convictions clearly and effectively to all students.
- \* My life has been enriched by what I have learned in this class.
- \* I feel this class opened my eyes to many issues that we are struggling with today, not only in the U.S. but globally.
- \* One of the best educational experiences I have had in my life.
- \* I feel this type of course content should be a part of every student's higher education experience.
- \* I think it is a class that promotes leadership and encourages and embraces new ideas and divergent thoughts.
- \* This class was the best class I have taken at NMU thus far. The texts were INCREDIBLE!
- \* This class opened my eyes to an entirely new type of environmentalism.
- \* This class had changed my views and outlook on life!
- \* I see this class as a necessity for our survival on this earth.

Seats for Winter 2009 are still open. Sign up today!

If you have any questions, contact the Center for Native American Studies at 227-1397.

## And the Heisman goes to...

A member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma made history on Saturday, December 13 as the first American Indian to win the Heisman Trophy. Sam Bradford, 21, was named the Most Outstanding College Football Player for 2008, capping an impressive season for the 21-year-old quarterback from the University of Oklahoma. He broke state and national records with the Sooners and emerged as a role model for his tribe and Indian youth.



"I feel like that's another blessing that God's given me. I have a great platform, especially within the Cherokee Nation," Bradford said in New York City, where he was announced as the 74th winner of the Heisman. "And for me to be an example for those kids, I look at it as a great opportunity for me." Bradford, whose father is Cherokee, has previously said his tribal heritage didn't play a major role in his upbringing. But he has embraced his newfound stardom among the second-largest tribe in the nation. With the new title, the Cherokees can boast of two tribal members whose football prowess took them to new heights. Sonny Sixkiller, who was born in Tahlequah, is believed to be the first Indian player to start at quarterback for a Division I team -- Bradford is the second. Sixkiller, who works as a sports commentator, rose to prominence the early 1970s so it's been a long time since an Indian football player made national headlines. Few make it to the college level and none have entered the professional realm since Jim Thorpe, who was Sac and Fox from Oklahoma, and other Native athletes played in the early years of the National Football League.

Few Native athletes are represented in other professional sports though two have become baseball standouts in the past couple of years. Joba Chamberlain, a member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, plays for the New York Yankees, and Jacoby Ellsbury, who is Navajo and is enrolled with the Colorado River Indian Tribes, plays for the Boston Red Sox.

Bradford, who is a sophomore at OU, has said he is interested in attending law school after college. There's speculation he may want to enter the NFL draft but has not stated whether he will file the paperwork, which is due in mid-January.

Despite the attention on Bradford, he's not the only Cherokee who plays for OU. Ben Hampton is a deep snapper for the top-ranked team. Derek Shaw, who is Ponca and Osage, is also a deep snapper for the Sooners.

Bradford was honored Monday, December 15, 2008 in New York City for the Heisman dinner.

*Special thank you to Indianz.com for granting permission to re-print this story.*



Students from NAS 488 Native American Service Learning Project course created a display for the NMU Olson Library for Native American Heritage Month. Photo: David Boda

## Storytellers visit campus

**By Amy Hamilton** - During the first week of December, the Center of Native American Studies and the English Department collaborated to bring four storytellers to campus as part of Amy Hamilton's Oral Traditions class, EN 314. On December 2nd Marty Reinhardt and Tina Moses shared traditional and contemporary stories enhanced by Power-Point slides.

On December 4th Jim and Judy St. Arnold shared stories and songs. The presentations were a wonderful way to bring the semester to a close.

Both events were open to all students and faculty of the Center for Native American Studies and the English Department.

