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Letter from the Director

January 3, 2017 faith.price

by Barbara Aston

October 21, 2016, President Kirk Schulz hosted his first meeting with the WSU Native American Advisory Board on the Pullman Campus. One of the highlights of the meeting was the formal signing by the Quinault Nation of the Memorandum of Understanding between Washington State University and regional tribes.

President Schulz signs the document adding the Quinault Tribe to the MOU as councilwoman Clarinda Underwood looks on.

Quinault President Fawn Sharp officially signed the MOU addendum in advance of the meeting and President Schulz formally signed during the board meeting with Quinault Council member Clarinda Underwood signing as a witness for the Quinault Nation. The Quinault Nation is the twelfth tribe to sign the MOU with WSU. The signing was witnessed as well by the Advisory Board and by Urijah Willis, a current WSU student who is an enrolled member of the Quinault Nation. A big shout out and welcome to the Quinault Nation!!!

A second highlight of the meeting was the introduction of our current Tribal Nation Building Leadership Program students to the President, Provost, and Advisory Board members. Nineteen of the twenty-one Nation Building students were in attendance and joined the Board for lunch.

President Schulz in his first meeting with the board requested that each advisory board member working with their signatory tribe identify priority topics for presentation to him. President Schulz also signed a letter of commitment to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Tribes. The MOU was originally signed in 1997 under the leadership of President Sam Smith. Each consecutive President, including Presidents Lane Rawlins, Elson Floyd, and Interim President Dan Bernardo, signed letters of commitment to honor the Memorandum of Understanding. We are looking forward to President Schulz's leadership and engagement with the tribes!
President Kirk Schulz, Provost Dan Bernardo, Native American Advisory Board Members, Native Programs staff, and Tribal Nation Building Leadership students pause for a photo before the end of the advisory board’s November meeting.

Each generation since time immemorial has faced challenges and uncertainties. Such concerns are a call to action as opposed to apathy. Action in and of itself, however, is not the end, but a means to an end. It is important to be cognizant of the principals that are shaping or driving our actions and what is the desired outcome. The protests at Standing Rock are examples of action driven by a principle expressed in the Great Law of Peace of the Iroquois people and common among many Native peoples: “Look and listen for the welfare of the whole people and have always in view not only the present but also the coming generations, even those whose faces are yet beneath the surface of the ground — the unborn of the future Nation.” Taking a stand to protect our environment and water is taking a stand for our future generations. We can also stand strong bolstered by the good words of tribal leaders such as the late Wilma Mankiller, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma: “The secret of our success is that we never, never give up.” A number of our students, undergraduate and graduate, have been actively involved in supporting the efforts at Standing Rock, North Dakota, and several have made visits taking supplies and standing in solidarity against the Dakota Access Pipeline. Their courage, commitment, and passion for justice and for addressing critical issues is commendable and reflects the leadership and integrity of these individuals. Giving back to the Native community and protecting and exercising tribal sovereignty are core values of our WSU Native American Programs and we support the efforts of our students.

One role of education is to assist us in being able to identify and articulate the values and world views that shape our personal understanding and drive our decision-making and actions. As Native people we are most blessed if our education has been grounded in the traditional values and knowledge of our ancestors. In order to protect the welfare of future generations, however, and of “the whole people,”
we must work and collaborate with others who may or may not share our same cultural values and worldviews. College provides that opportunity to expand one’s knowledge and engage with others who have different values, beliefs, and priorities. The skills and experiences gained here should strengthen our foundation as an L.L.L. (Life Long Learner). I look at our students and they are leaders here and now, but I also see in them the future leaders of our Tribal Nations and I am inspired and comforted for they give me hope and I believe in them.

Barbara Aston
Director of Native American Programs/Tribal Liaison
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Long-time Employee Robbie Paul Retires from WSU

January 3, 2017 faith.price

by Faith Price

Dr. Robbie Paul (Nez Perce) retired on October 1, 2016 after 21 years of service to WSU. Paul was the director of WSU's Native American Health Sciences program in Spokane.

Dr. Robbie Paul addresses the crowd at her tea party-themed retirement party at WSU Spokane.

Paul began at WSU in 1995 as the Native American Coordinator for Recruitment and Retention for the College of Nursing. Her job evolved over the years when WSU established the Native American Health Sciences office and Paul was named the director.

Having a Native American Health Sciences office is important for WSU, said Paul, for a couple of reasons. The State of Washington has one of the largest Native American populations of any state, and Native Americans face some of the greatest health disparities of any group in our nation.

“Preparing Native American health care providers is one way to help address these disparities,” said Paul. “Research has shown that having a health care provider that looks and understands their culture is very important in developing trust between a Native patient and Native provider.”
One way that Paul set about tackling this issue was by exposing Native American youth to the possibilities of a career in health. She started the Na-ha-shnee Native American Health Institute, a summer camp for Native high school students her first year at WSU. Na-ha-shnee just celebrated its 21st year of bringing Native students to campus.

“The camp includes hands on learning experience for the youth in nursing, medicine, physical therapy, speech and hearing, and pharmacy. I also tried to have as many as possible Native health care providers to come and present to the students, so they could learn from these Native health care providers, and see that they too can become a Native health care provider,” said Paul.

Over the years, Paul has helped guide many Native American students to careers in nursing, medicine, pharmacy, physical therapy, and other health fields.

“Robbie helped me get into the nursing program,” said Leslie Randall. Randall is from the Nez Perce tribe and is working on her doctorate in nursing. “She advocated for me during the application process. She recommended me for the Johnson and Johnson scholarship.”

Paul humbly noted that the students also inspired her.

“The students impacted me by their determination to succeed at all costs to them,” she said.

Paul was raised on the Nez Perce reservation in Craigmont, Idaho. Her own educational journey included several institutions, and multiple degrees in diverse fields. She received her bachelor’s in Clothing, Textiles and Design from the University of Idaho, a master’s in Psychology from Eastern Washington University, and a doctorate in Leadership Studies from Gonzaga University.

Her doctoral dissertation examined the impact of historical trauma on Native Americans.

“It is a five generation story of my Ni-Mii-Puu (Nez Perce) family, identifying the historical trauma in each generation,” said Paul. “Results revealed that healing could occur by placing historical pain within the context of bearing witness, affirming identity, empowerment through the memory of survival, and affirming the family world view that we are living and being Ni-Mii-Puu. Our story is no longer silenced, but has been made public and acknowledged, enabling reconciliation, forgiveness, and healing.”
Many of Dr. Paul’s colleagues were in attendance to help her celebrate. Pictured are (l-r): Faith Price, WSU Native Programs; Chris Riggs, Lewis and Clark State College; Michael Holloman, WSU American Indian Studies; Ken Lokensgard, WSU Native Programs; Kay Kay Weso, WSU Native Programs; Robbie Paul, WSU Native American Health Sciences; Barbara Aston, WSU Native Programs; Emma Noyes, WSU Native American Health Sciences; and Ella Inglebret, WSU Speech and Hearing Sciences.

In her retirement, she hopes to turn her dissertation into a book. She also has plans for two more books related to her grandparents’ experiences at Indian boarding schools. Her grandfather was sent to the Carlisle Indian Boarding School in Pennsylvania, and her grandmother attended Chemawa Indian Boarding School in Salem, OR. Their collected mementos from that time have given Paul a lot of material.

“Every student who attended received a trunk,” said Paul of her grandfather’s experience at Carlisle. “We still have this trunk, and soon after his wife died he gathered up several items that belonged to his wife, along with photo albums, baskets, beaded bags, and many other items and sent them to my father Titus Paul. It is because of these items in this trunk that I was able to find a lot of our story.”

Thus far, Paul has found plenty to keep her busy in her retirement.

“I don’t think I will be bored anytime soon with books to write, projects to finish, and finding my craft room and finding my office,” laughed Paul.
Rounddance Scheduled for December 3 in Pullman

January 3, 2017 faith.price

by Faith Price

The Ku-ah-mah Native American Student Association will be wrapping up Native American Heritage month’s activities with a rounddance Saturday December 3.

Students dance the night away during last year’s rounddance.

The event will be held at the Gladish Community Center’s gym. The Native American Women’s Association will provide a free stew dinner at 6pm. Rounddancing will begin shortly after.

Mike Squeochs will be the emcee for the evening. Lightning Creek singers are the hosts, and Drew Broncheau is the stickman. A hand drum contest will be held.

The rounddance is free and open to the public. Put it on your social calendar!
Anthony Choke, 23, Nisqually tribal member, took time out of his busy class schedule to teach others how to weave cedar, a Native American tradition that has been taught in his family for generations.

Choke is a senior majoring in business. After he graduates, he hopes to go back and work for his tribe. He explained that the biggest difference between community college and WSU is that his studies here are more time consuming.

Choke transferred to WSU in fall of 2015 from Centralia College. He said that he already had a strong work ethic when he came to WSU, so doing the work wasn’t hard, it’s just more of a time commitment.
In addition to the big work-load his major demands, he somehow finds time for fraternity events and club rugby. Also, earlier this fall, he held a cedar headband workshop where he taught the attendees how to weave cedar.

“I was seven years old when I started weaving,” said Choke. “In my family, we’re really big into our cultural background.”

Choke explained, “Everybody weaves. My aunts taught me how to weave; my great-grandmother taught me how to weave.”

It’s family tradition to pass on the skills to the children while they’re young. The range in skill varies from beginner to master weaver. Choke became a master weaver after seven years of practice at the age of 14.

Choke can weave many different cedar items, in multiple patterns. He can make cedar baskets, headbands, hearts, mats, Christmas bells, pouches, hats and visors.

He said that to be a master weaver, one must know how to makes a majority of the baskets.

One day, Choke mentioned to retention specialist Kay Kay Weso that he has a background in weaving and that he has taught youth and adults for nine years. He usually teaches at the Hazel Pete Institute of Chehalis Basketry, but because of his commitment as a student he couldn’t be a part of this year’s conference.

Although he wasn’t able to attend the conference and teach, he put on a workshop for WSU’s Native Programs.

“I like teaching our people about basketry,” said Choke.

He said it’s a great feeling to teach someone how to make something, and it’s really “empowering.” Choke said that teaching others is a fun experience for everyone because “it’s more of a social thing.”
Jazmine Ike-Lopez (l) and Denise Coger look on as Anthony Choke helps them with weaving.

“We get to talk with people we know. There is always laughter,” said Choke.

Teaching others has also served as a great opportunity for Choke to meet people.

“My family really believes that teaching people something new creates a good feeling, and a good environment.”

Choke’s grandma helped prepare the kits. She measured and cut the cedar, so they were ready to go.

One thing that a lot of people don’t consider is how the cedar is gathered and prepared. He explained that gathering the material is a process. His family gathers cedar, cattail, bear grass and sweet grass. To gather the cedar, his family goes into the forest, and pulls the bark off the tree. Then they split off the outer part, and it’s the inner part of the cedar that is used for weaving. After the cedar is split, they have to harvest it for a year before it can be used as material.

Hosting the workshop was a great opportunity for Choke to be a part of the Native community here on campus.

He’s balancing a busy schedule, so when he comes to the Native Center he spends most of his time studying.

“It’s awesome, I love it,” Choke said about everything the center has to offer. “I’m really happy we have it here on campus, especially for our people.”

Choke got to share his WSU experience this fall when he was a camp counselor for EXCEL. EXCEL is a youth conference hosted by WSU Native Programs for Native high schoolers interested in college.

He hopes to get more involved with the Native Programs before he graduates in the spring. He plans on holding another cedar headband workshop spring semester 2017.
The 5th Annual WSU women’s basketball Native American Appreciation Day basketball game on November 20 featured Native WSU students throughout the event.

Miss Pah-Loots-Puu Mykel Johnson with Cougar mascot Butch during pre-game festivities.

WSU Native American Programs, the College of Education, and Cougar Athletics collaborated to plan and promote the annual event. Reigning Miss Pah-Loots-Puu Powwow MyKel Johnson, a sophomore and member of the Nez Perce tribe, welcomed the crowd before the game. Johnson, a business major, represents WSU’s Pah-Loots-Puu Powwow held every March.

Native American student ambassadors were highlighted during halftime and breaks. Elsie Cree danced a fancy shawl exhibition for the crowd during halftime. Cree (Yakama/Nez Perce) is the President of the WSU Native American Women’s Association and a student ambassador.
Cherrise Reyes (Upper Skagit/Colville) narrated an informative video about Native American Programs and opportunities for Native students at WSU. Jacob Yarbrough-Jones (Nez Perce) educated the audience on Native Americans and sports history with his segment “Two Truths and a Lie.”

Olivia Battise (Alabama-Coushatta tribe) was selected from the crowd to name as many tribes as she could in 15 seconds during the “Quarter Minute to Win It” game. The WSU freshman was able to name 13 tribes, besting Native student ambassador Zach Clark (Squaxin Island) who had listed 12.

*Jacob “Jay-J” Yarbrough-Jones tries to trick the crowd at Native sports trivia during “Two Truths and a Lie.”*

The ambassadors are student employees hired to do outreach to prospective Native students. Their positions are funded by a grant from the Nez Perce Tribe. In addition to helping with the Native American Appreciation Game, the ambassadors travel to area schools to give presentations, lead tours for campus visits, and served as camp counselors during the EXCEL conference for Native youth.

Audience members were able to try their hand at a traditional hoop and dart game during the 3rd quarter break. Ambassador Yarbrough-Jones rolled a hoop down the baseline while the daughters and nieces of doctoral student Veneice Guillory-Lacy (Nez Perce) threw darts at the moving target. Ultimately, Butch won that game with a well-placed dart (after the hoop had stopped moving).

After the game, youth in grades 8 and under were welcomed to stay and participate in a free basketball clinic led by WSU women’s basketball team members.

The first Native American Appreciation Day game was held in 2011 when the WSU women played Louisville whose roster at the time included Umatilla tribal members Shoni and Jude Schimmel. Be sure to join us again next year for the 6th Annual Native American Appreciation Day game.
Fun on the Menu at the Native Center

January 3, 2017 faith.price

by Ke-Niah-Kiw “Kay Kay” Weso

Hi Cougs:

It has been a busy fall term for Native American Programs and we invite you to come join in on the fun!

Proud dad Casey Cree (center) with his daughters Rhea (l) and Elsie (r) at the Dad’s weekend breakfast.

In October we enjoyed homemade chicken noodle soup for our First Friday Feed. In addition to that, Phill Allen taught a fry bread making workshop and we enjoyed Indian tacos for our Community Dinner afterwards.

November has been full of amazing events to celebrate Native American Heritage Month. We provided traditional foods for our First Friday Feed to included baked salmon, wild rice, and triple berry crisp with huckleberries that were donated by Ken Lokensgard.

Our film screening of Warrior: The Leonard Peltier story was enlightening and provided information about activism and the criminal justice system in the United States. Dad’s Weekend consisted of our annual build your own breakfast burrito bar tailgate that was sweetened by a Cougar football win!
Staff and students rocked their mocs on November 15 and showed support for the water protectors at Standing Rock.

Our annual Rock your Mocs event was held November 15 to celebrate our Native diversity on campus. Students and staff wore their moccasins around WSU that day to visibly let campus know we are here. The following day was our monthly Community Dinner, a traditional Thanksgiving Feast with our WSU family.

Please join us for our upcoming First Friday Feed that will take place on Friday December 2nd from 11 am-2 pm in Cleveland Hall #21B. It’s our staff Chili Cook-off contest. Last year, our winner was Faith Price with a spicy chili with fresh jalapenos from her garden. We look forward to tasting this year’s submissions. In addition to that, we have our Stress Smash happening on Wednesday, December 7th at 12-1 pm. This event was very entertaining to watch last year and we are looking forward seeing this year’s outcome.

As always, please let me know if you need assistance. I am here to help!

Sincerely,

Kay Kay

Ke-Niah-Kiw “Kay Kay” Weso
Native American Retention Specialist
Washington State University
Cleveland Hall 25
509-335-8677 or kaykay.weso@wsu.edu
The fall semester has proceeded at a rapid pace at the Plateau Center. Recent weeks have seen workshops, student meetings, conferences, and more. Increased engagement with faculty and growing numbers of enrolled Native American graduate students are responsible for much of the activity.

Most notably, the Plateau Center and The WSU Graduate School held its second in a series of workshops devoted to Native American graduate student recruitment and mentoring as well as collaborative research with tribes. Each of the workshops is intended for faculty, staff, and researchers. In this latest one, held on Nov. 1 and 2, Asst. Director Dr. Ken Lokensgard and Dr. Lori Carris, Assoc. Dean of the Graduate School, led discussions on funding Native American graduate students. Subsequent workshops will focus upon mentoring, tribal community engagement, and collaborative research. The third
workshop in the series is tentatively scheduled for January 31 and February 1 (to maximize attendance, the same workshop is presented on consecutive days).

All of the faculty workshops are made possible, in part, by the Pacific Northwest Circle of Success: Mentoring Opportunities for STEM Alliance (PNW-COSMOS). WSU’s participation in this alliance is funded by National Science Foundation AGEP-T grant # 1432932. For more information about the workshops and other PNW-COSMOS activities, visit the PNW-COSMOS website and click on “Resources.” You can find the PowerPoint slides from the first two workshops under “Workshops” link.

In an effort to share information about WSU with potential Native graduate students, Dr.’s Carris and Lokensgard attended the American Indian Science and Engineering Conference on November 10 and 11 in Minneapolis. Dr. Shelley Pressley, Director of Undergraduate Research, also attended in order to inform conference attendees about summer research opportunities for Native undergraduates (for more information, see this site). Meanwhile, graduate students Danielle Guzman (Nez Perce) and Daylen Isaac (Yakama) presented posters on their research to attendees.

Graduate Students Veneice Guillory-Lacy (Nez Perce), Angela Picard (Nez Perce), and Paulina Abustan (Filipina) attended the Annual Nation Women’s Studies Association meeting on November 10-13 in Montréal, Québec. The theme for this year’s conference was “Decoloniality,” and the students delivered papers on that topic. Their panel was entitled “Healing as Resistance: Indigenous Women of Color Educators Reclaiming and Transforming Learning Spaces.” Other WSU students attended the conference as well.

Here on the Pullman campus, several graduate students have been meeting on Fridays in the Native Graduate Student Center for lunch. These meeting will continue throughout the school year on alternating Fridays and all Native graduate students are welcome. History Ph.D. student, Ryan Booth (Upper Skagit) also met with senior Tribal Nation Building Leadership Students in the Graduate Center one evening, to discuss graduate school and his personal post-college experiences. Ryan entertained the undergraduates with accounts of his many professional and personal experiences, ranging from graduate studies to BIA work in Washington, DC, to service as a National Park Ranger.

As always, we encourage members of the tribal communities, graduate students, and faculty members, and staff, who are interested in responsible, collaborative research or who simply want to know more about the Plateau Center and activities such as those describe here to contact us. You can reach Dr. Ken Lokensgard at kenneth.lokensgard@wsu.edu or at 509-335-1055.
Recruitment Corner: Watch for WSU in Your Community!

January 3, 2017  faith.price
by Autumn Jones

This time of year my traveling schedule will slow and I will focus on helping our applicants for fall 2017. If you are planning any events for the spring, please let me know so I can get them on my calendar. I attend college fairs, conferences, and recruitment events throughout Indian Country. Here are some locations I will be visiting this winter!

UPCOMING COMMUNITY VISITS:

December 01 Pi-Nee-Waus STEM Fair
TBA, Kalispel Tribe
TBA, Spokane Tribe
TBA, Kootenai Tribe

The 2017 Admission Application is Now Live
The WSU application for admission for Fall 2017 is now available at https://admission.wsu.edu/.

Important Dates and Deadlines for the 2016-17 School Year:

January 31:  WSU Admissions application deadline for Fall 2017 freshmen applicants
January 31:  WSU General Scholarship application deadline
NEW!!! January 31:  Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) priority filing date and Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) deadline

Please contact me for help answering admissions questions or scheduling a visit to campus.

GO COUGS!!!

Questions about applying to WSU?

Contact the Native American Outreach Coordinator

Autumn Jones (Blackfeet)
Native American Outreach Coordinator
Office of the Tribal Liaison
PO Box 641046
Coyote & Turkey

January 3, 2017 faith.price

By Dr. Jeanette Weaskus

For Identity FA16 students. Keep the tale lights burnin’ yo’.

And it was in the long ago time that Turkey was known amongst all his animal brothers and sisters as the most handsome and strongest of Creator’s sons.

Turkey often admired himself by looking into the calm water at his own reflection and enjoyed walking in front of the women so as to feel good about his fine looks as they blushed and swooned over him. It came about as he was showing off in front of the women that he noticed one who wasn’t paying any attention to him.

“This cannot be,” he said to himself, “I am so beautiful that I cannot be ignored.”

Turkey walked several times by the small brown woman, but he may as well have been invisible for she did not even know he was there.

“Why do you not look upon my magnificent beauty?” Turkey demanded of her.

“You can see that I am busy washing my husband’s clothes and I do not have time for you,” she said and went back to her work.

Now Turkey was insulted by not having the attention of this one woman and began to follow her around relentlessly. One day her husband, Coyote, found Turkey bothering his wife.

“Brother why do you follow my wife when you have crowds of maidens who want you?” Coyote asked.

Turkey could not answer this but he did not leave Coyote’s wife alone, in fact it was the next day that he stole her and flew away far up into the sky. She was terribly frightened and screamed out to the Creator, the Great Maker of Us All for help. It was at this time that Coyote’s wife was able to bite Turkey’s leg with her sharp teeth. Turkey cried out in pain and opened his claws.

Coyote’s wife screamed and fell to the Earth. Creator came to see why Coyote’s wife was screaming and saw what Turkey had done.

“You have stolen your brother’s wife and dropped her from the sky, for this I will punish you,” the Creator told Turkey.

And from that day on Turkey was not beautiful or strong anymore. He was punished by losing his power to fly and was also made to taste very delicious. And it is true that Coyote’s wife did not want Turkey, but on certain human holidays, we want Turkey.