

## “Indigenizing the Curriculum”

American Indian Studies Program is presenting its Fourth Annual Distinguished American Indian Speaker’s Series and Workshops, entitled, “Indigenizing the Curriculum.” The series seeks to help create learning environments that convey the American Indian experience, benefit Indian communities, and incorporate Indian culture and history into our curriculum. The co-sponsors are the American Indian Studies Program, the Humanities Seminar: Sense of Place, and College of Education.

The keynote speaker is Devon Mihesuah, professor of Applied Indigenous Studies and History, Northern Arizona University, presenting on November 3 in the College of Law Courtroom at 7 p.m. Mihesuah is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and is a historian. She received her Ph.D. in American History from TCU in 1989, and was professor of American Indian History in NAU’s history department for 10 years. She is now professor of Applied Indigenous Studies, and edits the award winning journal *American Indian Quarterly* (won the Wordcrafters Circle of Native Writers’ Award for 2001 Journal Editor of the Year) and edits University of Nebraska Press’s book series, “Contemporary Indigenous Issues.” Her work focuses on the themes of decolonization and empowerment strategies. Her latest book, co-authored by Angela Cavender Wilson, *Indigenizing the Academy: Native Academics Sharpening the Edge*, compiles essays from prominent Native writers in numerous academic fields and deals with how to achieve and retain indigenous knowledge, empowerment, and decolonization. Mihesuah has been active in the repatriation issue for over 15 years. Mihesuah’s talk will be followed by a series of Curriculum Workshops on November 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>.

The panels will include members from the Nez Perce and Coeur d’Alene communities, as well as UI experts, including D’Lisa Pinkham (Nez Perce, AIST Affiliate Faculty), Felix Aripa (Coeur d’Alene, AIST Affiliate Faculty), Dianne Allen (Coeur d’Alene, Director of Education), Bob Sobotta (Nez Perce, Lewis-Clark State College), students from Native American Student Association, and faculty Georgia Johnson (Education), Jan Johnson (English), Rodney Frey (Anthropology), Karen Guilfoyle (Education), and Debbie Storrs (Sociology).

The workshops are for the public, university faculty, school teachers and students from the Moscow, Lapwai and Kamiah (Nez Perce), Plummer and Worley (Coeur d’Alene) School Districts, along with the Coeur d’Alene Tribal School. Faculty participants will be asked to bring their course syllabi and lesson plans, and as they participate in the workshops, add good ideas to them, thereby bringing away workable and concrete solutions.

A one-semester credit for students is available through the Diversity Certificate Program. Contact Debbie Storrs, [dstorrs@uidaho.edu](mailto:dstorrs@uidaho.edu).

1. Ethical and sovereignty issues -- responsibilities of educators to the indigenous peoples they include in their curriculum, interface between cultural/ intellectual property rights and academic freedom - Tuesday November 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Clearwater Room of the Commons
2. Pedagogy and Methodology: Implications of the differences between Euro-American and Indigenous teaching and learning methods, the value of collaborative teaching, roles of the elders and the faculty in the classroom, and defining a “classroom” beyond an on-campus experience - Tuesday November 4<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Clearwater Room of the Commons
3. Content: How to validate and infuse Indian ways of knowing into the curriculum; key issues and subjects that Indian communities want taught; authenticity, accuracy and cultural sensitivities in the curriculum; who has the “right” to teach Indian culture, and how learning objectives differ or are similar for Indian and non-Indian students - Wednesday November 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Horizon/Aurora Rooms of the Commons
4. Resources: Speaker’s bureau and off-campus field experience possibilities to augment classroom presentations and how to fund such activities - Wednesday November 5<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Horizon/Aurora Rooms of the Commons
5. Indian student experience in classrooms: How do Indian students and their faculty view the participatory roles and expectations of Indian students in the classroom? How can faculty be more sensitive to

Indian student concerns? - Thursday November 6th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Whitewater Room of the Commons

6. Implications and lessons learned: What are the implications gained and lessons learned in better providing Indian education for other components of diversity education, as in women's issues, Latino, gay/lesbian, etc. Other questions to be developed - Thursday November 6th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Whitewater Room of the Commons

For more information:

<http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~rfrey/indspeak.htm>  
208-885-6268  
rfrey@uidaho.edu

Eric L. Jensen, professor of sociology, and Jorgen Jepsen, senior advisor to the Danish Institute of Human Rights co-organized a conference entitled "Youthful Law Violators, Human Rights, and the Development of New Juvenile Justice Systems" at the International Institute for the Sociology of Law in Onati, Spain, June 5-6. The topic of the conference was the creation of juvenile justice systems in developing nations based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The conference included invited participants from 10 nations. The co-sponsors of the conference were: the University of Idaho, the Danish Institute for Human Rights, the International Institute for the Sociology of Law, and the Center for Delinquency and Crime Policy Studies at California State University, Sacramento.

Uinews:

Please place the following in "Acknowledgments":

Eric L. Jensen, professor of sociology, delivered an invited presentation entitled "The Use of Quasi-Experimental Designs in Applied Criminological Research" to the Research Division of the Police Academy of Catalunya in Barcelona, Spain on July 2.

Asian American Comparative Collection (AACC) News:

The picture book biography by Priscilla Wegars, *Polly Bemis: A Chinese American Pioneer* (Cambridge, ID: Backeddy Books, 2003), has so far sold about 800 copies; the Chinese University of Hong Kong is one of the libraries that owns it. Although written for children in the fourth grade and up, adults are enjoying it, too! All author's royalties benefit the AACC, and the first check should arrive around mid-April 2004 for proceeds of book sales through calendar year 2003. If you would like an autographed copy by mail, please send a check for \$21.00 (includes postage) to the AACC at P.O. Box 441111, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-1111. Please include a note stating to whom it should be autographed.

A more extensive discussion of Polly Bemis's life and times is available in *Wild Women of the Old West*, edited by Glenda Riley and Richard W. Etulain (Golden, CO: Fulcrum, 2003). Chapter 3 (of nine) is "Polly Bemis: Lurid Life or Literary Legend?," by Priscilla Wegars, pp. 45-68, 200-203.. Polly wasn't really a "wild woman" but this was an opportunity to dispel some of the myths about her.

September 11, 2003 was Polly Bemis's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, and Bookpeople of Moscow graciously hosted a birthday party for her and did a window display featuring the *Polly Bemis* book. For more information on Polly Bemis, please visit <<http://www.uidaho.edu/LS/AACC/>>. [Actually, Veronica did the display - you could put her name in if it is ok with her.]

Research is progressing on Idaho's WWII Kooskia Internment Camp for Japanese aliens, 30 miles east of Kooskia. The AACC still has some complimentary copies of the eight-page booklet, *Golden State Meets Gem State: Californians at Idaho's Kooskia Internment Camp, 1943-1945*. If you would like one, please contact the AACC at the address above, or <[pwegars@uidaho.edu](mailto:pwegars@uidaho.edu)>.

Eric L. Jensen, professor of sociology, was awarded a fellowship from the University Studies Abroad Consortium to participate in an intensive Spanish language course in San Sebastian, Spain during June, 2003.

Is it too late to add something? I could add (to the PB book info I already submitted) that the Idaho Library Association recently awarded Honorable Mention for best book of the year on an Idaho topic to "Polly Bemis: A Chinese American Pioneer."

Alyson Kral (B.A. Anthropology 2002) has put her degree in anthropology to good use over the past two summers conducting surveys for the Forest Service. She first worked for the Umpqua National Forest Service in Oregon as an archaeological technician, and then for the Lochsa National Forest Service near Kooskia, Idaho, where she surveyed the Ni Mii Puu historic landmark corridor.

1. Jennifer Haylett is studying in Ecuador this semester with the University Study Abroad Consortium.













