Meetings are Thursdays at 5 p.m.
112 Whitman

Native month activities include the First Nations Food Taster, film series, guest speakers, and other great events

To learn more, attend a meeting (all are welcome) or e-mail nasa@nmu.edu.

Join the NMU Native American Student Association!

New Coordinator for Native American Student Empowerment Initiative at NMU

Joe “Scott” Masters is the new coordinator for the Native American Student Empowerment Initiative at the Center for Native American Studies. NASEI has already hosted several activities this semester including a basket making workshop with Kelly Church, the annual Fall Open House, Bizhaagek Ezaangokwaadek – Pakwezhigan (Let’s Get Together and Eat some Fry Bread) a very popular event with over 40 people, a road trip to the annual MTU pow wow and building bee houses (see article below).

Future workshop ideas include: tanning deer hides, making hand drums using the hides, and making wooden Native flutes. Other ideas included snow snake competitions in the winter, community beadwork project (underway soon), Anishinaabe language and warrior games. He is open to suggestions as well but in the meantime hopes that Native students and others will get involved with the Center and these activities.

Joe also is active with NASA and after each meeting brings out the drum for anyone to sing. Students and community members alike join in on Thursday evenings. All are welcome.

Joe has been singing at pow wows around the Upper Great Lakes region for a number of years and he loves to learn new songs. He is studying social work and Native American Studies.

Photo: (left) Working hard in the office.
Photo: (below) Can he eat a piece of fry bread bigger than his head?

NASEI is made possible by a grant from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

Building Bee Houses!

Can you imagine a world without chocolate, berries, pears or grapes? Bees pollinate all of these foods! Okay, the U.P. is not known for producing chocolate, but we got your attention! Bees are disappearing at alarming rates. NMU students volunteered their time to help the native Mason bees with their residential needs.

On Saturday, October 3, NMU students from NASA and others gathered together with youth from the Marquette Title VII program to build and paint bee houses at the Marquette Commons. Levi Tadgerson took the lead to get all of the supplies (some donated!) and prepared the kits ahead of time. NMU students prepared the room by covering the tables and floors. Students then prepared the kits by drilling pieces of wood together and putting the “roofs” on the houses.

Photo: students paint bee houses.

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Medicine Wheel Academy
and more!
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The Title VII students arrived with their family members and were eager to begin painting. Some of them painted four different bee houses. Tanya Sprowl and the Title VII program offered pizza and pop for everyone who participated.

The purpose of this event was not only to paint the bee houses but to share information on how important it is to help these bees. Also to encourage youth and students to be sure to find a place for these bee houses. We hope to have a follow up story once they have found a home.

This activity was presented by the NMU Native American Student Association and made possible by the Cedar Tree Institute, the NMU Center for Native American Studies, the Native American Student Empowerment Initiative (funded by the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community), and the MAPS Title VII Indian Education program with donations from Catron’s Lumber & Building and Marquette Wallpaper and Paint.

Chi migwech! (Great thanks) to everyone who made this event a success!

Photos (above) Holly B. carefully paints a bee house, (below right) students from Marquette Title VII program proudly hold their creations, (below left) NMU students prep the bee houses.

Want to learn more?
“Beekeepers in 24 states have been shocked to discover their bees are gone, threatening the pollination of $14 billion worth of seeds and crops,” [http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/03/03/HOGIROCUE71.DTL](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/03/03/HOGIROCUE71.DTL)

“Bees pollinate one-third of America’s food.”

Don’t forget! Here’s a great gift idea!
An alternative to plastic shopping bags, the CNAS tote bag. On sale at the Center (located at 112 Whitman Hall) for $12. Other items also available. Sorry, no credit cards.

Congratulations to NAS faculty member and new parent Aimee Dunn on the arrival of her son Forest Hawk. (photo left). Forest made a guest appearance at the bee house event and has visited NAS classes already.

Congratulations also to Zaagkii Project Intern Levi Tadgerson and Amber Shoulders (also new parents) on the birth of their daughter earlier this semester. She also made a guest appearance at the bee house event as dad (Levi) did so much of the prep work.

Photo: Leora Tadgerson models one of CNAS tote bags.

Numbers to Know—Source: Population Estimates via U.S. Census Bureau

4.9 million—As of July 1, 2008, the estimated population of American Indians and Alaska Natives, including those of more than one race. They made up 1.6 percent of the total population.

11—Number of states with more than 100,000 American Indian and Alaska Native residents on July 1, 2008. These states were California, Oklahoma, Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, New York, Washington, Florida, North Carolina, Michigan and Alaska.

Combined, these states were home to 61 percent of the nations American Indian and Alaska Native residents.

$3,250—Increase in the nations American Indian and Alaska Native population from July 1, 2007, to July 1, 2008. The population of this group increased by 1.7 percent during the period.
The Painful But Beautiful Art of Quilling

By Mitch Bolo

“Big E” Erick Awhonopay and myself, Mitch “The Kid” Bolo, present a show every Sunday evening on Eagle Country 105.7 for Eagle Radio’s weekly Native American program “Indigenous Insights.” The show airs from 7-9 pm on KBCI, a tribally owned radio station. Big E and I have many different features and bits to share with our listeners. We have a pow-wow calendar to let you know what’s happening on the pow-wow trail around our local area, including pow-wows in Wisconsin, Minnesota, downtown, and even across the pond in Canada. Also on the show you’ll get a taste of the Anishinaabe Language with Kenn’s Nish Corner, with Kenn Pitawanakwat. There’s also a story played every week, as well as a little history lesson with “This Date in Native American History.” Did I mention the music? The Indigenous Insights library consists of over 1300 songs. A normal 24-hour radio station has about the same amount of music, so for a two-hour program we’re doing pretty good.

What is unique about our show, other than the fact it’s all about Anishinaabe, is that we have every genre of music on our show. Usually you can listen to a country show, that’s what you get, country music. You listen to a rock show, you get rock music, and so on. On our program you will hear music from every genre, including Native American rock bands, country singers, rappers, hip-hop artist, pop singers, D!’s spinning’ some techno music, not to mention all the great pow-wow tunes and flute songs. What I really like on the show is our laid back style. We get across educational stuff in a fun way. Our mission statement is to get people interested in their culture and to be proud to be Native American People. If you’d like to contact “Big E” or me, e-mail us at IRRADIO@UP.NET or call our studio in Baraga, Michigan and leave us a message at 906-353-9287. Remember to tune in every Sunday evening for Indigenous Insights, Eagle Radio’s weekly Native American Program, on Eagle Country 105.7.

Indigenous Insights: Keeping You in Touch with Indian Country

By Alexandra Maxwell

This year’s UNITED Conference was packed full of fascinating speakers and artists from all over the world. I attended Sam English’s presentation on the intersection of Native American Culture and Art. Expecting a world renowned artist usually implies expecting a big ego to accompany them, but Mr. English is a regular guy. Despite his success in the art world, he held nothing back when he told his story. He spoke of his battles with alcohol, his rebellion, and how art was always an inspiration in his life.

Sam English is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians from North Dakota and the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians of Northern Minnesota. He grew up in the south-west, in Ute territory. English explained to the audience that he felt confused about who he was as an American Indian. He learned about the Chippewa ceremonies from his father, but his parents were both “products of assimilation” and were not comfortable talking about their traditions.

He spoke of his hesitation when it came to painting Indians as he didn’t want to offend any tribes or spiritual leaders with inaccurate representations. While he was in the San Francisco Bay Area attending an electronic trade conference he became very active in the Indian Community. He began to learn more about the collective American Indian experience. He began painting small canvases of Ojibwe and Blackfeet dancers. He traveled the country working with the National Indian Youth Council, during these travels he learned more about the diversity of American Indians and more about the value of traditional knowledge. He offered a full scholarship to an Iyey League institution by the I.H.S. but turned it down because as he said, “Alcohol was in my life.”

English got sober on December 10, 1981, and has been sober ever since. He began to travel to powwows all over the country, painting what he learned from the people he met. “Indians were people of art...we’ve always created art. You can see it on the rocks in the Southwest; you can see it on the rocks here. You can see the works in Mexico and South America. That is who I am...Art brings us back to the culture.” For a man who struggled during much of his life with an addiction and a confus- fused identity, English didn’t give up on designing himself or his art. His art was what kept him moving forward, and what eventually brought him back to his culture and his community.

Renowned Artist Sam English Speaks at the UNITED Conference

Learn more about the Native American Congressional Internship Program and Undergraduate Scholarship Program from the UDALL Foundation.

The Native American Congressional Internship Program is a ten-week summer internship in Washington, DC, for Native American and Alaska Native students who wish to learn more about the federal government and issues affecting Indian Country. The internship is fully funded by the UDALL Foundation and provides round-trip airfare, housing, per diem for food and incidentals, and a stipend at the close of the program. Interns work in congressional and agency offices where they have opportunities to research legislative issues important to tribal communities, network with key public officials and tribal advocacy groups, experience an insider’s view of the federal government, and enhance their understanding of nation-building and tribal self-governance. The complete application package must be received by January 29, 2010, at the Udall Foundation.

The Morris K. Udall Scholarship is awarded to college sophomores and juniors pursuing careers related to Tribal Public Policy, Native Health Care, or the Environment. In addition to the $5,000 financial award, Udall Scholars also get to attend the Udall Scholar Orientation and are immediately plugged into a growing and active alumni network. Tribal Public Policy includes fields related to tribal sovereignty, governance, natural resource management, cultural preservation and revitalization, economic development, and other areas affecting Native American communities. Native American health care includes health care administration, social work, medicine, research, and other disciplines. The Foundation must receive application packets by March 2, 2010, but individual institutions may have earlier deadlines. Interested students can contact their campus Udall Faculty Representative for more information.

Visit www.udall.gov to learn more about the internship and scholarship opportunities. On the website, you’ll find videos about both programs, tips for applying, and Alumni Mentors you can contact with any questions you might have. Interested students may contact Colin Ben, Internship Contractor, at cben02@yahoo.com or Mia Ibarra, Scholarship Program Manager, at ibarra@udall.gov.
Kelly Church Visits NMU Again

As part of this semester’s Native American Student Empowerment Initiative, artist Kelly Church returned for a second basket-making workshop in September. The course was held at the Marquette Commons. Her class was again filled to capacity. Kelly is a citizen of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chipewa. It could be said that Kelly is quite popular because of her sense of humor. She writes on her website, “I think humor is an important part of Native culture, for sometimes if we weren’t able to come together and laugh at ourselves, the pain would seem too real.” She continues, “We are survivors. And I think we can make a difference in making better days ahead.”

The Center was pleased to have Kelly speak at the U.P. Indian Education conference this year. Her artwork is invaluable to Native peoples in this region. If you have a chance to visit her website do so at www.blackash.org/.

Photo: (above) Traci Belair listens to Kelly give instructions. Photo: (below) NAS minor student Bethany Woin (right) works on her basket with another student (unknown).

Oral Traditions Through Song

By Amy Hamilton

April Lindala visited Amy Hamilton’s Oral Traditions class (EN 314) in early October. She shared Anishinaabe songs and stories, as well as personal stories and comments on issues currently being discussed in many Native American communities. The students were uniformly impressed with the power and beauty of April’s voice and the passion with which she spoke.

More than one student reported getting “the shivers” when April began singing, with one commenting, “Her voice was powerful as soon as she began and only seemed to grow stronger as the song went on,” and another marveled at the power of her voice despite the fact that April had shared with the class that she had a cold that day.

The students came away from April’s presentation with more than a deep respect for her incredible voice and the beauty of the Anishinaabe songs she shared, however.

As one student reported: “Her presentation enabled me to understand more fully what the oral tradition is all about.”

And another elaborated: “April’s presentation opened my eyes to see the importance of names, language, worldview, respect and the connection between songs and story more clearly. I was truly moved and learned lessons, ideas, and facts from her that I will never forget.”

Her presentation was a gift and a revelation for the class – an opportunity to see the oral tradition more fully. One student perceptively noted that April’s presentation was a powerful example of N.Scott Momaday’s contention that “we exist in the element of language.”

C reations of the powwow

Roadtrip to MTU pow wow

By Joe Masters

The Native American Student En-dowment Initiative sponsored a road trip recently. Students and staff rode up early in the morning to attend the 14th annual “Spirit of the Harvest” pow wow at Michigan Technological University.

Features of the pow wow included a special presentation by world renown hoop dancer Lowery Begay (right) who also served as Head Veteran Dancer. There was also a special honor song and dance for the Pink Shawl, honoring woman and raising breast cancer awareness. All of the students were able to try out wild rice soup and some participated in the inter-tribal dancing.

NMU students who attended where, Jian Sha, Lindsey Wilkinson, Steven Rabish, Barb Bradley, Logan Mengiduk Dehkile, Joe Masters, and by NAS faculty member Grace Challier (photo bottom with Begay). Joe and Logan sang with the host drum, Four Thun-

ers. NASEI is funded by the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and presented by the Center for Native American Studies.

Over the years, NMU has been fortunate to host a great line up of nationally-known Native artists, speakers and performers including; Evon Peter (photo left), Trudie Jackson, Charlie Hill, DJ Vanas, LaDonna Harris, R. Carlos Nakai, MariJo Moore, and Famous Dave to name only a few. NASA hopes to invite more Na-tive leaders to campus this year. Is there someone you would like to see come to campus? Let NASA know by voicing your opinion. Write us at nasa@nmu.edu if you cannot

GRIFWC/KBIC Discuss Lake Superior Fisheries

In October, representatives from the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community spoke at NMU to a crowd of approximately sixty students and community members. The topic was Lake Superior Fisheries: Tribal Management and Regulation. Presenters were Jim St. Arnold, GLIFWC Community Education Coordinator, Bill Mattes, GLIFWC Lake Superior Fisheries Section Leader, Gene Mensch, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Fisheries Biologist and Heather Naigus, GLIF WC Conservation Enforcement Officer.
Native American Heritage Month Activities at NMU

For more information call 906-227-1397 or visit www.nmu.edu/cnas

Monday, November 2 from 4–6 p.m.
SCHOLARSHIP Workshop “Native American Voices of Leadership” with April Lindala
Ryan Hall Commons

Tuesday, November 3 from 7–8:30 p.m.
“Indians Sing the Blues” a presentation with April Lindala
Peter White Public Library

Wednesday, November 4 from 7–8 p.m.
“Be/except/Is Not an Island”
Jamrich Hall 105

Thursday, November 5 from 7–8 p.m.
“Native American Citizenship Experience” with Dr. Ruth Karry
Ryan Hall Commons
Ruth Karry’s presentation is sponsored by the League of Women Voters

Friday, November 6 from 7–8 p.m.
“Show Me the Money” Financial Fitness Day for tribal youth and teachers
Lunch provided for all who register at
www.nmu.edu/nativeamericans

Monday, November 9 from 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
Special guest speaker D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas (photo right).
Explorer Rooms—University Center
Lunch provided for all who register at
www.nmu.edu/nativeamericans

Monday, November 9 from 7–8:30 p.m.
“Native American Citizenship Experience” with Dr. Ruth Karry
Ryan Hall Commons
Ruth Karry’s presentation is sponsored by the League of Women Voters

Wednesday, November 11 from 6–7:30 p.m.
“Indians Sing the Blues” a presentation with April Lindala
Jamrich Hall Commons

Wednesday, November 18 from 6–8 p.m.
Cultural Diversity and Sensibility of the Native American Community
This event has three separate parts, I.e., a presentation will be shown on how Native Americans are stereotyped in our everyday lives. It will reflect on media, mascots, and advertising. There will then be a guest speaker, Richie Plass (photo right). He travels with his collection of Native American depictions and speaks out against stereotypes. Finally, there will be a panel of culturally diverse students willing to tell about personal struggles and answer questions anyone has for them.

Thursday, November 19 from 7–9 p.m.
FILM “White Rider”
Jamrich Hall 105

High school students from across Michigan visited Northern Michigan University in Marquette recently for the College Prep Medicine Wheel Academy. The academy was the brainchild of two NMU employees in the Center for Native American Studies: faculty member Adriana Greci Green and director April Lindala.

They realized there were limited opportunities for Native American high school students in the region to obtain an in-depth campus experience (unlike mid- school students who attend a summer leadership program at NMU). They also recognized that there was little Native American representation in the health sciences, particularly nursing.

The two-year program was funded by the NMU Wildcat Innovation Fund and the NMU College of Arts and Sciences. Several partners from Marquette General Health System, along with faculty and students from the university’s School of Nursing and Clinical Sciences Department, contributed to the success of the program.

“We have been hearing very positive and enthusiastic feedback from the youth that visited with us and their chaperones, as well as from the faculty who participated,” said Greci Green. “We are grateful to the NMU students who ran the workshops, mentored these high school students and shared their personal passions about their chosen fields. It was engaging, informative and fun. I don’t think the youth were ever bored or disinterested; tired, perhaps, but definitely into it. We also had community participation in the karaoke/drum social and some special time at the fire site with my colleague Kenn Pitawanakwat, who brought it all back to center.”

This was a great opportunity for us to communicate directly to potential students information about career opportunities, ideal high school courses to take for a career in medicine, said Higbie, who spent 23 years as a hospital nurse.

“If students are looking for a lifelong career in health care that can take them anywhere their dreams can imagine, then nursing is the job for them,” Menard said. “I enjoy the fast paced, constantly changing, patient-centered environment of nursing. I have a passion for what I do and feel lucky to be able to share the knowledge I have gained with future nurses.”

Participants in the College Prep Medicine Wheel Academy, such as high school students Nolin Reinhardt from Gwinn, and Trever Maleport from Manistique junior Felicia Reid wrote, “I learned more about what I would like to work in medical field and how competitive it is.” One student commented in an anonymous survey that the best part of the program was being at the Center for Native American Studies fire site and learning more about Anishinaabe culture.

The next session of the College Prep Medicine Wheel Academy will take place in mid-May of 2010. Anyone interested in learning more should call the NMU Center for Native American Studies at 906-227-1397.

Photo: (top) Betsy Trudeau from the Hannahville Indian school and Caitlyn O’Keefe from Sault Ste. Marie high school watches Dr. Adriana Greci Green.

More photos on page 8 and 9.

Betsy Trudea, a senior at Hannahville Indian School, said, “It made me want to be a doctor even more. My favor- ite part of the program was when I got to watch an open- heart surgery at the hospital dur- ing my shadow- ing. I also learned about the prefusionists and what role they have in the operating room. I would suggest this program to other students who are interested in the health field, only because there aren’t many opportunities to go and visit inside a hospital and to meet the people we did.”

When asked if the program changed their viewpoints about the health field, Manistique junior Felicia Reid wrote, “I learned more about what I would like to work in medical field and how competi- tive it is.” One student commented in an anonymous survey that the best part of the program was being at the Center for Native American Studies fire site and learning more about Anishinaabe culture.

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Photo: (bottom) Students Kelsey Putnam and Hailey St. Andrew both from Lodaie High School prepare to get a blood sample from Dr. Adriana Greci Green.
Anishinaabe Language Flash Cards Created by Students

The Center for Native American Studies at NMU is teaming up with students to make these educational cards available for educators.

Some sets that will be available are food, nature/seasons, animals, and other everyday words!

If you’re interested, contact April Lindala  alindala@nmu.edu or Stephanie Bajema  sbajema@nmu.edu  (906) 227-1397  http://www.nmu.edu/nativeamericans

Chi miigwech to Lee Sprague from the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians for donating a tribal flag to the Center’s collection. Sprague spoke at the Protect the Earth gathering held in early August and noticed the flag display in the Whitman Hall commons.

He promised to deliver a flag from his tribe to the Center. Miigwech also to NMU student Zac Lahellier for delivering the flag to the Center recently.

It was a wonderful surprise! If you have not seen the collection of tribal flags, be sure to visit the Whitman Hall commons.

Photo: Graduate student Tina Moses (left) and April Lindala (right).

By Stephanie Bajema

Jorie O’Brien and I both were inspired when we took Kenn Pitawanakwat Anishinaabemowin classes and learned that the language was endangered.

We found that there weren’t a whole lot of print materials out there for the language. I was also taking illustration alongside that class, and decided to make language flash cards as an assignment for that class, with the intention of continuing the project after the class.

I am hoping once we find a printer, the cards can be distributed via the Center for Native American Studies at NMU and possibly via a website. We’ll have to work out a system for shipping, which is something I may have to take on myself if there isn’t enough help at the Center.

The first two sets are animals and food, but other requests include clothing, colors, numbers, and body parts, so I hope we can do those. I am also hoping to continue working with educators to see what they need.

I would like to get the books we made for ‘nish class available at a reasonable price in the future. I tried self-teaching a language when I was in Jr High/High School and I loved getting children’s books in other languages to try to translate them.

Photo: (right) Jorie and Stephanie.

Advisor’s Note-Stephanie and Jorie are both majors from the School of Art and Design. They are dedicated to putting their talents to this great cause. The Center recently sent out interest cards to teachers around the Great Lakes region. Response has been overwhelmingly positive! If you have any suggestions or ideas for either Stephanie or Jorie for future Anishinaabe language card sets, please contact them at the e-mail address above.

Anishinaabe News}

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Anishinaabe News
By April Lindala

During the Upper Peninsula Indian Education conference on September 21, there were several first or fluent speakers of Indigenous languages. Two of them Mohawk and the rest Anishinaabe.

We were delighted to host these individuals as part of the conference. The Indigenous language speakers were sponsored by the King Chavez Parks Visiting Professor Program. Guest speakers were asked to present in various classrooms as well as the conference. They visited classes in Anthropology, Nairal American Experience and Anishinaabe Language Culture and Community.

Presenters on the Anishinaabe language preservation efforts were Rose Trudeau, Barb Nolan, Ted Holappa (all from Bay Mills Community College), Earl Oitchingwangan (retired from Be"mijdi State University) and Gary Loonsfoot (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community). Also included in that discussion from the University of Michigan were Howard Kimewon and Dr. Margaret Noori. George Roy from Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College and Kenn Pitawanakwak from NMU also contributed their wisdom.

Two representatives from the Akwesasne Freedom school were also present. Elvera Sargent and Maxine Cole talked about how the community came together to form the Freedom School with the intent of saving the Mohawk language.

Elvera and Maxine visited one of the Anthropology courses. Dr. Alex Carroll commented, “We were deeply appreciative of the opportunity to learn of the unique educational experiences at Akwesasne. It was encouraging to hear that traditional languages are being incorporated into the classroom in such a fundamental way!”

Presentations of these panels on preservation and revitalization efforts will be made available on Media Site Live over the internet.

Photo left: Maxine Cole, Dr. Alex Carroll (Anthropology), and Elvera Sargent. Photo above: NMU students Leora Tadgerson (left) and Mitch Bolo (far right) listen to Barb Nolan (middle left) and Rose Trudeau (middle right) speaking the Anishinaabe language. Photo below: Brita Brooks, Margaret Noori, Howard Kimewon and Kenn Pitawanakwak at the Center.

NEWBARRY FELLOWSHIPS IN THE HUMANITIES 2010-2011

Newberry fellowships support humanities research. This program promotes wide-ranging and rich collections; a lively interdisciplinary community of researchers; individual consultations on your research with staff curators, librarians, and scholars; and an array of scholarly and public programs. Also offer is an exchange fellowships with British, French and German institutions, a fellowship for American Indian women pursing any post graduate education, and a fellowship for published independent scholars. For more information or to download application materials, visit http://www.newberry.org/research/felshp/fellowshiphome.html