New Faces to Native American Studies Minor

Adriana Greci Green earned her doctorate in Anthropology with a specialization in Native American Studies from Rutgers University (2001). Her fields of interest include art and material culture, cultural performance, the representation of Native Americans in museums and popular culture, issues of repatriation, ethnohistory, museum and heritage studies, and the cultural and material expressions of sovereignty and treaties. Her areas of specialization include the Plains and Great Lakes regions, and she has expertise in museum and exhibition practices.

Adriana’s doctoral work focused on Lakota cultural performances at Rosebud and Pine Ridge, South Dakota, and innovatively used ethnographic, collections and archival research on art and clothing to examine how dances and celebrations in the early reservation period offered Lakota people an opportunity to resist the colonial system and maintain a sense of their own identity. More recently, she has been working with Odawa and Ojibwa artists in Michigan and Ontario documenting Anishinaabe quill work on birchbark, both historically and today. She is collecting oral histories of artists and developing a formal analysis of this art form.

Adriana has served as Executive Director of the Nokomis Native American Learning Center in Okemos, Michigan, where she organized educational programs and exhibitions on Michigan Native arts and traditions and led a project developing a standards-based curriculum to help middle school teachers and students understand the concept of sovereignty and the history of treaty negotiations in Michigan. Previously, she has taught at Michigan State University, Seton Hall University and Rutgers University.

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Kenn Pitawanakwat is from Wikwemikong (Wiky) Unceded Reserve on Manitoulin Island, Ontario, Canada, and is fluent in the Odawa-Ottawa dialect of the Three Fires Confederacy. Kenn is educated with an Honors B.A. from York University and in Radio and Television Arts from Ryerson University. He has also completed the first intake of the Native Language Instructors Program at Lakehead University.

From his education at York University Kenn is versed in Native American Religions, the Goddess and Women’s studies, the Hebrew Bible, Early Christianity, Anthropology, and Liberation Theology. Aided by his Ryerson University education, Kenn operated a successful video production business and has continued to write as a business and community reporter. Kenn’s education in early Canadian and American Literature has increased his confidence in the gifts he brings to the table. Kenn serves as a consultant to select health professionals and academics.

Kenn Pitawanakwat is a Naturalist at home deep in the forest or as an educator in the classroom.

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Jamie Logsdon Kuehnl has been appointed to a one-year term position teaching Native American Oral Literature and Native American Novels and Poetry this fall semester. Jamie earned her Bachelor’s Degree in English/Native American Studies from Northern Michigan University in 2002, and her Master’s Degree in Literature from N.M.U. in 2004. Her main areas of emphasis throughout her graduate studies have been in “Post”-colonial and Native American Literatures.

Currently, Jamie is a doctoral student of Women’s Literature and Spirituality from the California Institute of Integral Studies (C.I.I.S.) in San Francisco. Renowned Laguna Pueblo and Lebanese author, poet, and literary critic, Paula Gunn Allen, is currently teaching as an adjunct at C.I.I.S., and the hope is to bring Paula to N.M.U. sometime this year for a speaking engagement, so be on the lookout for that potential event! Jamie has presented her research at several academic conferences and is set to be published this year in She is Everywhere II: An Anthology of Writing in Womanist/Feminist Spirituality. Jamie’s personal interests wholly revolve around her two children: Jessee David and Jasmine Victoria, and her academic interests include mythology, eco-feminism, and anything in that liminal space where oral and written traditions meet with spirituality. Jamie welcomes any and all community comments, input, and/or wisdom at her e-mail address: jkuehnl@nmu.edu.

The Center for Native American Studies welcomes Dr. Alex Carroll. Dr. Carroll joins the Sociology department as the new Anthropologist on the NMU campus. Dr. Carroll will be teaching courses in the NAS minor including AN 320 - Native Peoples of North America. Her presentation during her on-campus interview was on the Paiute and the Ghost Dance. All of us at the CNAS look forward to working with Dr. Carroll.

Contact Dr. Carroll by email at: KCarroll@nmu.edu

REACH NEW HEIGHTS! Have you considered a minor in Native American Studies? For more information on how Native studies can be a part of your academic journey, call 227-1397.