

Coming Voice

Stanford Native Community Newsletter

In This Issue

**Welcome Back
from the NACC Staff**

Fall Quarter Re-Cap

Meet the House

**What the NACC
Is Up To**

- A Friendly Message
from your NACC Librarians
- Highlight on Carson Smith

**SAIO 50-Year
Oral History Storymap**

**Looking Forward
to Spring**



Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring!

Initiated in 1989 by alumna Nyleta Belgarde '92 (Turtle Mountain Ojibwe), *ComingVoice* was named for her grandfather. In nearly continuous production since 1989, *ComingVoice* was envisioned as a stronger more unified voice—our voices, our expressions—and as a storyteller like Nyleta's grandfather.

ComingVoice is the voice of coming events at Stanford. Continuing from last Spring, we are excited to continue to see *ComingVoice* as a platform to continue to keep in touch with the Stanford Native Community as we are currently spread throughout the world.

Welcome Back to Campus!

Dear Native Family,

Warmest wishes for a re-imagined 2022!

Since March 2020, we in the NACC have learned to more fully embrace White Earth Chippewa Scholar Gerald Vizenor's spirit of Survivance: imaginative survival, grit, wit, grace, humor, and a little bit of chance. As the Pandemic challenged the well-being of our indigenous communities and families, and cycles of virtual learning and work kept us mostly apart physically at Stanford, we found ways to build and treasure Community and Belonging more creatively than ever before.

Credit and gratitude goes to student leaders like Jade Goodwill (Navajo, Lakota, Dakota) and Marilyn Frank (Lakota, Tlingit, Tsimshian), 2021 Powwow Co-Chairs, who refused to let the 50th Anniversary of Powwow be suspended last spring. Instead, they and the magnificent 2021 Powwow leadership team re-imagined a virtual event, complete with alumni head staff Powtawche Valerino (Mississippi Choctaw NASA Engineer) and Layton Lamsam (Osage Neurosurgeon), synchronized contesting, a virtual art market, and a weeklong fitness challenge featuring MC's Notah Begay and Billy Mills. So adept were they at creating a digital platform that more than 20,000 logged on to the site and Powwows all over the country reached out to learn from this truly innovative model.

In Autumn, 2021, NACC hosted the Stanford Native Immersion Program (SNIP) on campus to maximize campus Covid-safety compliance for our newest family members. 29 frosh and 6 student staff, along with campus and Ohlone partners, contributed to SNIP being one of the most impactful ever. It was a robust launch to an open campus experience.

During that window of togetherness, the stellar team of SAIO leaders Brentley Sandlin and Jack Cooper (Cherokee), Emily Elliott (Chinook), and Camilla Lewis (Tesuque Pueblo and Tohono O'odham) organized a 100-person caravan to Alcatraz Island and a candlelight vigil showcasing dozens of diverse student voices and performances to commemorate Indigenous Peoples Day on October 11.

The arrival of the Omicron variant over Winter humbled but didn't stifle our plans for 2022 as we plan for the potential return of in-person 51st Powwow and SAIO Anniversary celebrations, and along with our exceptional Alumni Steering Committee, for the inaugural Indigenous Alumni Summit in Spring or Autumn. Finally, we look forward to honoring not one but three graduating classes in June when '20 and '21 returns for the festivities modified due to Covid, and '22 proceeds on schedule.

We've been honored to be on this journey to reclaim health and wellness for our Community with all of you, and are grateful for the unwavering commitment to Belonging and Native Excellence that inspires and nurtures all of us.

Be well!

Best,

Karen Biestman, Denni Woodward, and Greg Graves, NACC

Fall Quarter Re-Cap

We had the privilege to offer our warmest welcome and congratulations to the incoming class of 2025!

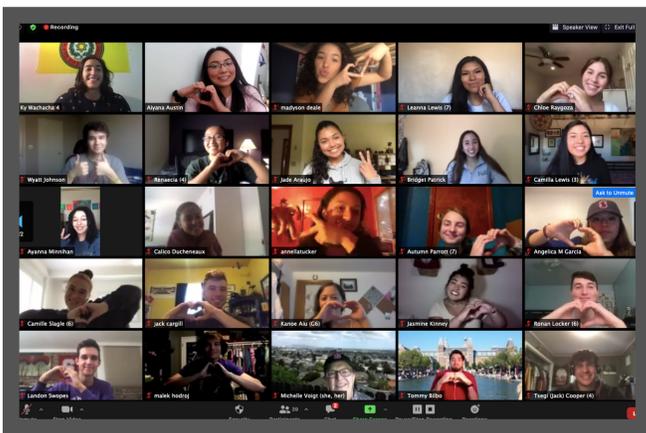
SNIP 2021

Staffing SNIP was an invaluable opportunity to give back to a program that gave me my best friends! I feel so close to the Native community across all class years due to staffing. Through the dance practices for our surprise debut to presenting the plate awards to the participating frosh, we had such a blast hanging out, building community, and watching lifelong friendships develop over the week. What a fantastic overall experience!

- Olivia Panarella, 2021 SNIP Staffer



SNIP 2021



NSO 2021 + BBQ

The NACC Open House marked the beginning of a post-Zoom era. Our island-themed feast fed both the stomach and the soul. The ice cream and volleyball social brought us some stellar spikes and sweet scoops. Our Native community BBQ was full of good memories and smiling faces (which we owe to Greg's skills on the grill). NSO was about bringing the community back together, and we are honored to have been a small part of this big goal.

- Jade Araujo and Ryan Duncan, 2021 NSO Coordinators



SAIO Candlelight Vigil 2021

Indigenous People's Day and NAHM

SAIO was able to support over one-hundred students travelling to Alcatraz for the Sunrise Ceremony. SAIO also hosted our annual candlelight vigil. NAHM was marked with artist spotlights on our social media, highlighting the innovative and creative students on campus!



Image Credit: Briar Watt

Congratulations India Logan-Riley!

Native Student India Logan-Riley won the 2021 Stanford Bright Award this past fall, due to her work as the co-founder of Te Ara Whatu.

For more information, check out Logan-Riley's highlight in [Stanford News!](#)

Meet the House: Muwekma-Tah-Ruk

Meet the Resident Fellows

We are Matthew Yellowtail ('18, Native American Studies) and Constance Owl ('18, Native American Studies), proud members of the Apsaalooke Nation and Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians respectively. It is our absolute honor to step into the Muwekma RF roles and give back to the community that has given so much to us. On the surface, our vision for Muwekma is quite simple—to honor the work of our predecessors, Shoney and Ray Blake, by continuing to foster a community that is welcoming to all students, not just the residents. We plan to bring our love of art, storytellings, and traditional craftsmanship to the house and create opportunities for the community to explore and learn different forms of creative expression. We are looking forward to welcoming you all to Muwekma this fall!



Resident Fellows Constance Owl (left) and Matthew Yellowtail (right)

Meet the Student Staff



Ramiro Hampson-Medina (he/him), Ethnic Theme Associate
San Diego, CA

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska / White Earth Chippewa
Psychology Major / Native American Studies Minor

Favorite Muwekma Memory: Linking up with Zapata to do the band run and have screaming matches against other dorms. also bubble soccer

Best Part of Being a Staff Member: Creating a welcoming space where everyone in the community feels welcome to come hang out and be apart of the house.

Buddy Kalanikumupa'a Seto Myers (he/him/'Oia), Resident Assistant
Kailua, HI and San Rafael, CA
Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian)

Human Biology Major / Native Studies Minor

Favorite Muwekma Memory: The spontaneous movie nights, late night adventures, volleyball games, and our “all the holidays we missed because of the pandemic and our birthdays” special dinner the spring!

Best Part of Being a Staff Member: Helping Muwekma continue to grow as a sovereign, Indigenous home where our Native community can have pu'uwai pumehana (warm hearts) in a space that is culturally centered, decolonial, and hella kū'ē. Most of all, I hope Muwekma will be a place of healing and resilience this year.

Eō!



Muwekma-Tah-Ruk cont.



Arjan Walia (he/him), Resident Assistant
Saugus, CA

History Major / Spanish and Biology Minors

Favorite Muwekma Memory: All the great laughs and conversations at the dining table!

Looking forward to as a Staff Member: I'm really excited to see new faces in the house and catch up with all the returning residents. Returning to in-person life might be a little scary or anxiety-provoking for people, in addition to all the typical stresses of the beginning of the school year. We are here to support you, so please reach out if you need anything or just want to talk!

Tsegi Cooper (any pronouns), Ethnic Theme Associate

Birdtown, NC

Kituwah (EBCI)

Film and Media Studies Major / Pre-Med Track

Favorite Muwekma Memory: Smash tournaments in the lounge

Looking forward to as a Staff Member: Getting to know all the new residents!.

Camilla Lewis, Ethnic Theme Associate

Tesuque Pueblo, NM

Tesuque Pueblo, Tohono O'odham, Akimel O'odham, Wailaki

HumBio Major/ Psych Minor

Favorite Muwekma Memory: Playing volleyball with the house and other people in the Native community

Looking forward to as a Staff Member: Getting to know residents and playing sand volleyball with staff/residents!



Hannah Kelly (she/her), Resident Assistant

Portland, Oregon

Sihásapa Lakóta

Public Policy and Human Biology

Favorite Muwekma Memory: Hosting a succulent plant and painting event during my first on-call as an RA in Muwekma! The first on-call activity that I hosted was inspired by the idea of community nourishment and creativity.

Looking forward to as a Staff Member: I am excited for all the opportunities that we will have to continue to strengthen our community through beading and boba nights, volleyball, cook outs, powwow, house trips, meals, study nights, on-call events, tea making, journaling, movie nights, and all the community gatherings that are yet to come.

What the NACC is Up to

We had the privilege to offer our warmest welcome and congratulations to the incoming class of 2025!

A Friendly Message from Your NACC Librarians

For those of you who are not yet familiar with us, aloha! We are your NACC librarians, Keoni and Paisley.

Keoni and I have reworked the NACC Library database to account for duplicate books, identified, labeled, & relocated said books to Muwekma, and are currently working on a labeling system for newly donated books! With that, you all can look forward to a “branch” NACC library located in Muwekma (coming soon!). Last quarter, we also held a book give-away for the Native community!

Hopefully, we get to see all of your beautiful faces soon, but if there is something specific you need—say, a Native book you want to borrow—please don’t hesitate to reach out! We would be more than happy to help you!

- Paisley Richards, Class of 2022



Pictured: Paisley Richards (left) and Keoni Rodriguez (right)

Highlight on Carson Smith

Carson Smith represents a new perspective on relational work at the university as the Conflict Resolution Fellow. A member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, she is committed to developing a place for peacemaking, a value-based, Indigenous community-centered method of conflict resolution. She notes that her work goes beyond the simple idea of resolving conflicts. Instead, her goal is to help community members devise new ways to relate to each other, ways that are guided by their own agreed upon values.

For more on Smith's highlight, [click here](#).

Community Center Collaboration

Over the past two quarters I have been primarily working on organizing collaborative events between the NACC and community centers across campus. Cross-community center events are particularly meaningful and fun for they foster friendships and strengthen community bonds. The NACC itself is a diverse, multicultural community which particularly lends itself to creating lasting connections between communities across campus. The events also foster learning and gaining deeper understandings not only through conversing with others but also by listening and engaging with guest speakers.

- Tala Parker, Class of 2022



Old Union Clubhouse

Launching the SAIO 50-Year Oral History Storymap

Before SAIO, they were just ‘students’—natives who roamed the arcades of the quad, encountering the same obstacles as many of you today. Only back then, they didn’t have spaces like the NACC and Muwekma, or people like Denni, Karen, and Greg to support them. They didn’t have Native faculty to help them discover their academic passions. When they got here, they were completely on their own.



Archival photo of SAIO's Stanford Mascot Protest

Nowadays, even in the midst of a pandemic, it’s easy to take for granted the many spaces and support systems that are dedicated to our community. We often forget that the journey to today was hard-fought, and crafted through 50 years of trial and error. These past nine months, I’ve had honor of leading research on SAIO’s remarkable 50-year history. With the assistance of Caelin Maurum and Grace Carter, we’ve now captured over 10 hours of alumni interviews, and vast catalogue of archival documents. At the heart of this material lies a wellspring of wisdom, of which the past alumni so generously pass on their hard-earned lessons.

These materials merely scratch the surface of what’s to come. With plenty more research and interviews on the way, we plan to present our work during the inaugural Indigenous Alumni Summit next fall using the ArcGIS StoryMaps platform. Our goal is to craft an interactive digital space that not only celebrates our community, but compiles our collective wisdom into a roadmap that may be used to guide us through the next 50 years.

I say ‘living’ because, in these past months, I’ve come to terms with the fact that the list of contributions is so long, and so vast, that the ‘complete’ story of our community is nearly unattainable—but that’s the beauty of what we’re starting! When I’ve finished my contribution, it’ll be up to you, the students, to continue the work by filling in the blanks, and adding your own chapter to our community’s beautiful history.

- Matthew Yellowtail, Class of 2018

Resident Fellow at Muwekma-Tah-Ruk

What to Look Forward to in the Spring!

This Spring will be filled with many fun events, so keep an eye out for these events below and many more to come!

Admit Weekend

We are so excited to soon welcome new admits into our community during the annual undergraduate Admit Weekend! We are planning to host our Open House, the AISf "Pamcake" Breakfast, and many educational presentations about Native American studies and Indigenous language classes. Schedule to come!



Admit Weekend Student Panel



Grad Student Welcome

GRAD Diversity Day

We are excited to welcome graduate students during the Stanford-wide GRAD Diversity Day, in which admitted graduate students may visit and attend activities that showcase Stanford's best! We will host our own programming for this day, in partnership with our graduate student groups. More information to come!

The New Members of the SIAA Board

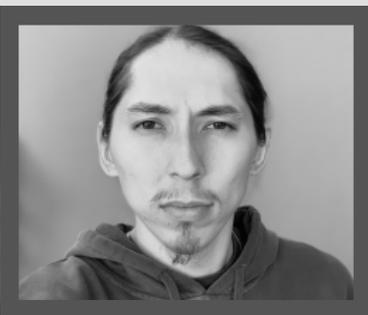
The Stanford Indigenous Alumni Association is excited to conclude its election and present their new Board of Directors to the greater community!

- Pat Sekaquaptewa - Chair (2-year term)
- Will Paisley - Vice-Chair (1-year term)
- Summer Waggoner-Fetterman - Treasurer (2-year term)
- Shoney (Hixson) Blake - General Board Member (2-year term)
- Jana Kaopuiki - General Board Member (1-year term)

Current board members, Carson Smith and Angelique EagleWoman will continue to serve on the board through their current terms.



SIAA logo



Congratulations Kyle Edwards!

Kyle Edwards is from the Lake Manitoba First Nation, and he is a Stegner Fellow in the Creative Writing Program 2021-2020.

For more information, check out Edwards's highlight in [Stanford's Creative Writing Program site!](#)

TO KEEP UP WITH ALL THE SPRING QUARTER EVENTS
FOLLOW THE SAIO AND NACC INSTAGRAMS ON THE RESOURCES PAGE

