2016 UCLA
American Indian Graduation Celebration

Friday June 10, 2016
De Neve Plaza
AMERICAN INDIAN GRADUATION CELEBRATION

2016 PROGRAM

4:30 Opening Reception

5:00 Masters of Ceremony
   Kelly Leah Stewart, American Indian Studies MA Student
   Theresa Jean Stewart-Ambo, School of Education, PhD Candidate

Opening Prayer/Blessing
   Payan Supiliumu

5:15 Welcome Address
   Shannon Speed, Director of the American Indian Studies Center

Awards
   Crystal Dawn Roberts-Mesa Memorial Scholarship
   Special Honors
      Community Service
      Alumni of the Year
      Woman of the Year
      Man of the Year

5:30 Presentation of Graduates
   Bachelor of Arts or Science
   Master of Arts
   Master of Fine Arts
   Juris Doctorate

6:00 Closing Remarks
   Cesar Barreras, 2016 - 2017 AISN President

   Honor Song by Phil Hale

7:00 Please join us for a reception next door in the Plaza View Room
Awards and Special Recognition

Crystal Dawn Roberts-Mesa Memorial Scholarship
Presented by Eric Sanchez
President of the American Indian Alumni of UCLA

Community Service Awards
Berencie Abatea
Kevin Hale
Temmyse Lane
Damien Montano
Denise Morales
David Streamer
Geneva Thompson

Special Acknowledgement

Paul Kroskrity
Chair, Chair of the American Indian Studies Interdepartmental Program

Alumni of the Year

Phil Hale
UCLA Class of 2013

Native Woman of the Year

Larissa Fasthorse
Sweetgrass Laboratory

Larissa Fasthorse is an award-winning playwright, director, and choreographer based in Santa Monica. Larissa was awarded the NEA Distinguished New Play Development Grant, Joe Devolding Annamesheering Fellowship, AATE Distinguished Play Award, Inc. Resident Artist, Sundance/Field Foundation Fellowship, Avram Harris Fellowship, and distributed Ford and NEA Grants. Larissa's productions include "Urban Rev. Landless, Average Family, Teaching Dave Squawking to Our Elders," and "Cry of a Nation." She has written commissions for Center Theatre Company, Children's Theatre Company of Montana, Alter Theatres, Kennedy Center TYA, Native Voices at the Mark T. Harris Rep and Mountain Stage Theatre. She developed plays with Kansas City Rep, Arts in Rep in Portland, Acrobat Theatre Company, the Center Theatre Group Writer's Workshop and Berkeley Rep's Greenhouse Festival. She is a current member of the Playwright's Union, Playwright's Center Core Writer, Director's Lab West 2015, Theatre Communications Group, board of directors and an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Lakota Nation.

Native Man of the Year

Dwight Kala Lonayesva
Hopi

Dwight K. Lonayesva came to the University of California, Los Angeles after serving as the Executive Director of the American Indian Recruitment Program, a non-profit organization that serves underprivileged American Indians in education. Through AIR, he led the development of an academic program that merged both culture and academic understanding to promote educational success. His continuous path of cultural inclusion and historical relevancy within an academic model led to self-empowerment and self-esteem among AIR students, which resulted in greater academic performance. His work, along with many, has led to many of our Native Youth obtaining success within higher education.

Dwight earned his Bachelor of Arts degree, in Political Science, at San Diego State University and earned his Juris Doctorate from Western Sierra School of Law. He is a former board member of the San Diego Imperial Valley ACLU and sits on the Enrollment Management Advisory Council at San Diego State University. He's also a recipient of the Pacific Sociological Association Social Consciousness Award, the Nation Program, and American Indian Community Honoree at the San Diego Billows Park Powwow, 2014. Currently, Dwight serves as the Director of Tribal Learning Community & Educational Exchange at the UCLA School of Law and is a member of the Hopi Tribe.
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Native Man of the Year

Dwight Kalu Lonayesva

Dwight K. Lonayesva came to the University of California, Los Angeles after serving as the Executive Director and Co-founder of the American Indian Recruitment Programs, a non-profit organization that serves underprivileged American Indians within education. Through AIR, he led the development of an academic program that merged both culture and academic understanding to promote educational success within secondary instruction. His continued path of education, inclusion, and historical relevancy within an academic model led to self-empowerment, confidence and self-esteem among AIR students which resulted in greater academic performance. His work, along with many others, has led to many of our Native Youth obtaining success within higher education.

Dwight earned his Bachelor of Arts degree, with Honors, in Political Science, at San Diego State University, and earned his Juris Doctorate from Western Sierra School of Law. He is currently a member of the San Diego County Bar Association and is a member of the American Indian Community of the San Diego/Baja Park Powwow. He is the current Director of Tribal Learning Community & Educational Exchange at the UCLA School of Law and is a member of the Hopi Tribe.
Bachelor of Arts or Science

**Eli Ankou Ojibwe, Dene Bay**

Sociology

Raised in Ottawa, Canada, my parents always told my siblings and I that we should do whatever we set our minds to and here we are. I have worked extremely hard for the wonderful position I am in today, but none of it would be possible without support of the wonderful people that surround me.

**Iris Colburn**

Art History
American Indian Studies Minor

I was born and raised in New York City by my two loving parents and with the help of my younger sister, Lily, and brother, Wyatt. I chose to attend UCLA for its excellent Department of Art History and Department of American Indian Studies. I am grateful to the departments, professors and my fellow students for all I have learned, and for their continued encouragement and entertainment of my questions.

**Kevin Hale Navajo**

Sociology
American Indian Studies Minor

My name is Kevin Hale and I was born in Pico Rivera, CA and raised in the Los Angeles community. I am a member of the Diné Nation, and I will introduce myself according to my tribal traditions. I am Kevin Hale of the Red House clan (my mother's clan) and I am born for the Salt Water Clan (my father's clan). My parents raised me and my siblings to understand the traditional way of life of our ancestors and spent countless hours teaching me the stories, songs, dances, and the spirituality of the natural laws that govern our existence on this earth. My father spoke of man's destiny to strive to be a true human being on this earth. Through these teachings, I have become an active member of the Native American community in Southern California working towards our destiny - true humanity.

In 2008-2009, I was my father's caretaker until he passed away from congestive heart failure. I began drinking alcohol and lost control of my life. My condition worsened to the point of worthlessness, hopelessness, and idleness and I decided life was not worth living. I entered a treatment facility for alcoholism and I observed the way counselors used the qualities of compassion and caring to help me learn tools to battle the disorder of alcoholism. It was suggested by a counselor that I take Addiction Studies courses at Pierce College and this was where my new life and passion for education reawakened.

In the Addiction Studies Program I learned about myself and felt my self-esteem and self-worth return to my mind and heart. I completed two internships for the Addiction Studies Program at Grandview Foundation Inc in Pasadena, a total of 400 hours. I was hired as Substance Abuse Counselor after completing my internship. I have worked in both the residential and outpatient capacities of the position which has provided a wealth of knowledge and experience in the counseling field. I believe that my commitment, intelligence and integrity are reflected in my academic work. My optimism towards life has enabled me to gain a wealth of knowledge about American Indian people who live in the Southern California area. I want to learn what makes this metropolitan area succeed in some areas and fail in others. I want to develop a working knowledge of social work programs in the Los Angeles community and work to create realistic programs with viable solutions. I know these skills can be acquired through UCLA’s MSW program. There is no better learning tool than personal experience and hard work. UCLA’s MSW Program will provide both to improve my knowledge and skills in the social work field.

**Shaina Chava Laub Apache**

Anthropology

An Other Scholar from El Camino Community College with permanent honors from the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society upon transferring to UCLA. During her time at UCLA she was an active member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Pi sorority and within the Non-Traditional Student Network. Her major was Anthropology with an emphasis in Biocultural Anthropology. As a research student at Cleveland Clinic she collected data for a quality study on the antiarrhythmic drug Disopyramide. Upon graduating she will continue to pursue her dream in becoming a medical doctor and helping the underserved.
Bachelor of Arts or Science

Berenice Abarca
Political Science

Berenice Abarca was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. Throughout her four years at UCLA, she served as a Canvas Coordinator and Peer Counselor Coordinator/Assistant Director for Retention of American Indians Native, POW-WOM Volunteer Coordinator, and has been on planning committees and volunteered for various AISA's events. Additionally, she is the co-founder and was a co-founder for Pacific Islanders for HEALTH. She is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and hopes to further her studies by pursuing her Master of Public Health with an emphasis in health policy. She would like to thank everyone at AISA for making UCLA feel like home and for always being very supportive of her and her academic and personal endeavors. She would also like to thank her family for being very loving and supportive. Lastly, she would like to congratulate her fellow graduates and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

Eli Ankou Ojihoe, Deki Bay
Sociology

Raised in Ottawa, Canada, my parents always told my siblings and I that we could do whatever we set our minds to and here we are. I have worked extremely hard for the wonderful position I am in today, but none of it would be possible without the wonderful people that surround me.

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My name is Kevin Hale and I was born in Pico Rivera, CA and raised in the Los Angeles community. I am a member of the Don Nato; Nation, and I will introduce myself according to my tribal tradition: I am Kevin Hale of the Red Horse Clan (my father's clan) and I am born for the Salt Water Clan (my mother's clan). My parents raised me and my siblings to understand the traditional way of life of our ancestors and spent countless hours teaching me the stories, songs, dances, and the spirituality of the natural laws that govern our existence on this earth. My father spoke of man's destiny to strive to be a true human being on this earth. Through these teachings, I have become an active member of the Native American community in Southern California working towards my destiny, true humanity.

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Teena Lebeau  
*Cheyenne River Sioux*

**Anthropology**

Teena Lebeau is Minnoupin and Oglala Lakota, French, and Scottish from South Dakota, and is a scholar in the Anthropology department at UCLA. Prior to attending UCLA, Teena attended Los Angeles Valley College where she was on the Dean's Honor roll every semester of attendance and the President's Honor roll. Teena has overcome physical disabilities to reach her current goal of a BA and plans to attend law school in order to help other people with human rights issues. Her area of focus are issues of women and violence, cultural appropriation, as well as a plethora of issues in Indian Country. Teena has engaged in activism through the American Indian Movement (AIM) and the Multicultural Alliance for Reproductive Freedom where she fought alongside other activists to keep women’s clinics open as well as being an active voice standing in solidarity with movements for reproductive justice and Native rights to land. Teena has walked in two worlds, working and volunteering with Native and non-Native communities in the realms of animal rescue, law, securities, and community organizing. Currently, she meets with a Native women’s circle as a means of personal growth and community support, and also meets with a Lakota group in Los Angeles to retain connection with her tribe. Teena is a member of an animal rescue, a rescuer of cats, a rock music aficionado, and a force advocate for positive representations of Native people.

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Larissa Martinez

**Anthropology and American Indian Studies Double Major**

My name is Larissa and I was born in Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico. My family consists of my mother, two older sisters, one older brother, and myself. After a challenging migratory journey to the United States, my family and I settled in San Francisco in 1997. My mother's determination and hard work granted me the opportunity to attend high school. Unfortunately, I was the only family member to pursue higher education as many resources were unavailable to my siblings. Subsequently, as an undocumented student, my activism work has focused on helping youth access higher education and be comfortable of their legal status. My mother has also influenced my passion to advocate and learn about marginalized communities by teaching me about the discrimination many indigenous people face. Currently, my interests focus on the retention of indigenous languages and identity within Mexico's indigenous education. Ultimately, I hope that my work helps undocumented and indigenous communities to dismantle the prejudices and discrimination that they face on a daily basis. Lastly, I want to be a role model to both of my nephews so that they can also make a positive impact in our community.

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Denise Morales  
*Tohono O'odham*

**History**

Denise Morales is the youngest of six children to Georgina Justin. She is Tohono O'odham and Mexican, born and raised in Long Beach, California, where she attended Long Beach City College prior to transferring to UCLA in 2014. While at UCLA, she worked for RAINT as an administrative assistant and was a member of ABA. She has two nephews, Erick and Matthew and two dogs, Rocca and Hera and a cat named Church.

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Shayna Powless  
*Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin*

**Psychology**

I grew up in Roseville, California and was always involved in some kind of sport. It wasn't until high school that I started focusing primarily on running (track and field and cross country), cycling (cross country mountain biking and triathlons). Since then, I have developed a strong love and dedication for mountain biking, which has led me to choosing that as my primary sport. Biking has given me experiences I would never have had the chance to encounter otherwise such as traveling the world, racing world cups and meeting amazing people who also love biking. Sports aren't the only things that have impacted my life. My education was growing up and being able to attend UCLA has also played a huge role in shaping who I've become today. Additionally, I couldn't be the person I am today without my parents' support, without them, none of my opportunities growing up would have been possible.

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Melissa Solway  
*American Indian Studies*

Melissa Solway was born and raised in Los Angeles in a family of Native American women and a family of Native American women. She attended UCLA, where she was a member of the Tribal Law and Policy Institute of Los Angeles under the guidance of Dr. Diane Champion. Melissa plans to attend graduate school in the near future and plans to work helping Native women in their communities.
Teena Lebeau  Cheyenne River Sioux  Anthropology

Teena Lebeau is Mienoupi and Ogala Lakota, French, and Scottish from South Dakota, and is a scholar in the Anthropology department at UCLA. Prior to attending UCLA, Teena attended Los Angeles Valley College where she was on the Dean’s Honor Roll every semester of attendance and the President’s Honor Roll. Teena has overcome physical disabilities to reach her current goal of a BA and plans to attend law school in order to help other people with human rights issues. Her area of focus are issues of women and violence, cultural appropriation, as well as a plethora of issues in Indian Country. Teena has engaged in activism through the American Indian Movement (AIM) and the Multicultural Alliance for Reproductive Freedom where she fought alongside other activists to keep women’s clinics open as well as being an active voice standing in solidarity with movements for Reproductive justice and Native rights to land. Teena has worked in two worlds, working and volunteering with Native and non-Native communities in the realms of animal rescue, law, security, and community organizing. Currently, she meets with a Native women’s circle as a means of personal growth and community support, and also meets with a Lakota group in Los Angeles to retain connection with her tribe. Teena is a lover of animals, a dedicated fundraiser, a rescue of cats, a rock music aficionado, and a force advocate for positive representation of Native people.

Larissa Martinez  Anthropology and American Indian Studies Double Major

My name is Larissa and I was born in Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico. My family consists of my mother, two older sisters, one older brother, and my uncle. After a challenging migratory journey to the United States, my family and I settled in San Francisco in 1997. My mother’s determination and hard work granted my siblings and I the opportunity to graduate high school. Unfortunately, I was the only family member to pursue higher education as many resources were unavailable to my siblings. Subsequently, as an undocumented student, my activism work has focused on helping youth access higher education and be comfortable of their legal status. My mother has also influenced my passion to advocate and learn about marginalized communities by teaching me about the discrimination many indigenous people face. Currently, my interests focus on the retention of indigenous languages and identity within Mexican indigenous education. Ultimately, I hope that my work helps undocumented and indigenous communities to dismantle the prejudices and discrimination that they face on a daily basis. Lastly, I want to be a role-model to both my nephews so that they can also make a positive impact in our community.

Denise Morales  Tohono O'odham  History

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Melissa Solway  American Indian Studies

Melissa Solway has always been determined to get to college, get an education, and make a difference in peoples lives. For the last four years, Melissa’s drive has been to get through school has been due to her passion studying Native American cultures, worldviews, and beliefs, and has been actively including the knowledge she has gained into her everyday life. Before attending UCLA, Melissa volunteered her time in many ways, which includes working with disabled children through therapeutic running and assisting the residents of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. As a student at UCLA, much of Melissa’s work has focused on domestically abused Native American women and has interned with the Tribal Law and Policy Institute of Los Angeles under the guidance of Dr. Diane Champion. Melissa plans to attend graduate school in the near future and plans to work helping Native women in their communities.
David Streamer  Los Coquis (Cahuilla)  
American Indian Studies  

Born and raised on the Los Coquis Indian Reservation, I am the first in my family to pursue higher education. As an undergraduate at UCLA, I studied American Indian Studies because of its relevance to my community and my future goal of becoming a lawyer. I have enjoyed being a part of the American Indian Student Association as well as working for two amazing on-campus projects, Retention of American Indians Now! (RAIN!) and Fitness Improvement Training Through Exercise and Diet (FITTED). As my undergraduate schooling comes to an end I look forward to my life as a graduate student in the American Indian Studies department here at UCLA. However, I am most excited to be attending school with both of my siblings, Minds Streamer, who is currently a sophomore, and Daniel Streamer, who will be an incoming freshman next year. I am grateful for all that I have been able to experience as an undergraduate and I am excited for what the future may hold.

Sedna Villavicencio  
Anthropology  
American Indian Studies Minor  

I was born in Caguepa Territory and raised in both Tongva and Kumeyaay Territories. While attending high school in San Diego I did not see my Indigenous Mexican history being taught or celebrated, and like many disillusioned students of color, I "dropped out" of school. After a string of dead end minimum wage jobs, I decided to attend San Diego City College in hopes to transfer to State. I never imagined I would attend UCLA (let alone graduate from UCLA). Graduating is not only an accomplishment for myself but also for my friends and family, and I proudly share my degree with them. Although my family derives from Indigenous communities in Southern Mexico, colonization has deprived me of my Indigenous language, spirituality and in some ways, my identity. Being raised as an ethnic Indian without tribal affiliation can be difficult and complex at times but American Indian Studies has taught me that Indian identity is not absolute; it is unique, dynamic and multifaceted.

Puyan Supilivut  Chumash  
Anthropology  
American Indian Studies Minor  

Puyan Supilivut is a Chumash Basket weaver, jewelry maker, traditional paddler, and singer of songs. She is a student of the Anthropology department at UCLA, and also holds a minor in American Indian Studies. Her work at UCLA has focused on California Native consciousness, connections with the land, and revitalizing her ancestral language under the guidance of her clairists. Among many other accomplishments, Puyan is a student member of AAP, completed numerous sessions of NPSITE (Native and Pacific Islander Summer Intensive Transfer Experience) Program as well as the TSP (Transfer Summer Program). She continues to work with students and community outreach along with other programs on campus. Puyan's research is informed by her participation in cultural protocols and ceremonies. For her own spiritual strength, Supilivut often returns to her ancestral homelands which are the Northern Channel Islands off the coast of Southern California from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara area where her ancestors rest. This summer Puyan will be doing repatriation work and photography for cataloging an archaeological collection at UCLA. In addition, Puyan will be incorporating her time and working as a mentor with community college students attending the NPSITE program. Her plan after graduation includes further mentorship as well as research into traditional medicines as well as language revitalization for future Chumash generations to come.

Aaron Wilson  Akimel O'odham  
Philosophy  

I am member of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. I was born in Phoenix, Arizona. Grew up in North Hollywood California. Went to Los Angeles Valley College with a major in Philosophy, then transferred to UCLA's philosophy department. I have interest in ethics, metaphysics, epistemology. I also have interest in Federal Indian law, and politics. I'm eager to continue my educational journey in the Master program in American Indian Studies. I am very excited to start my research, which will be focused on Federal Indian law and policy.
David Streamer  *Los Coyotes (Cahuilla)*  
American Indian Studies

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Master of Arts

Temryss Lane Lummi
American Indian Studies
Thesis Title: "North American Indigenous Soccer: Viability, Healing and Remembering Wellness"

She's a storyteller and former professional footballer playing in Sweden’s Damallsvenskan and the U-23 US National Team. Her elite soccer career initiated a career in broadcast journalism, evolving from an on-camera host for networks like Fox Soccer, Fox Sports, beIN Sports and other outlets to producing her own digital and short features. She's continues to work in soccer as a coach, a Native American wellness advocate, and Nike N7 ambassador. She visits Native communities and reservations to coach soccer and inspire the next generation through sports, education, media, and travel. Temryss returned to her studies after graduating as a student-athlete from Arizona State University with a B.S. in Sociology and minor in Communications where her work focuses on visibility and soccer as a healing practice for Indigenous North Americans. Temryss' trailblazing efforts in Native American soccer scholarship carved out opportunities to present her research at Harvard's "Soccer as a Global Phenomenon: Conference this spring and at the Native American Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) conference this month in Honolulu. Whether she continues to pursue a career in higher education and/or activate her research in the community, Temryss Neltina Lummi is committed to telling stories of empowerment while bringing soccer and its global-educational opportunities to more Native youth in the United States and Canada.

Christopher Roldan
American Indian Studies
Thesis Title: "Hyphenation Among Adult American Indians in Southern California"

I grew up in Southern California and basically did all my formal education in the area. I graduated from Diamond Bar High School. I went to Mt. SAC in Walnut, I received my Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Cal Poly Pomona and have gone to UCLA for my Master's degree. In the past I have had the opportunity to volunteer at the China Institute for Women as well as tutor local school children in Pomona. I am huge music fan and especially enjoy heavy metal. In my free time I play guitar, skateboard and travel when possible.

Master of Fine Arts

Damien Montano Yaqui/Purepecha
American Indian Studies
Thesis Title: "Two Spirit Times: Artistic Expression From Klah to Monkman"

Damien Montano is a Graduate Student in the American Indian Studies Master's Program at UCLA. He is Yaqui and Purepecha and has ancestral roots in Arizona and Mexico. He received his B.A. in Ethnic Studies with a concentration in Chicana and Chicano Studies from California State University, Fullerton. His work at UCLA focuses primarily on artistic expression, gender and sexuality with Indigenous worldviews, as well as Two Spirit identity, history/heritage and Jewelry Studies. His research is currently exploring Two Spirit artists and their contributions to Indigenous concepts of beauty. He makes and assembles jewelry and emphasizes this craft in his research as an expression of culture and as a marker of identity while drawing deeper connections with Indigenous artists and the gendering. Damien is also assistant editor of co-created, Indigenous, hyper-galactic, inter-dimensional, social media space called Two Spirit Times. He has also contributed to the Mapping Indigenous Los Angeles project at UCLA which involves documenting and mapping Pow Wow's and Gatherings throughout the space of Los Angeles.

Jeannette Godoy Nahua/Metica
Theatre
Acting/Specialization in Costume Design

Amanth Moi Ciapazqueh Quizayantonalii
Amanth Moi Ciapazqueh Calaqiyantonalii
Amanth Moi Ciapazqueh Hiitzlampahtoteholii
Amanth Moi Ciapazqueh Miclampahtoteholii
Amanth Moi Ciapazqueh Ilhucampa Huanalii
Amanth Moi Ciapazqueh Tonanizin Ometeotli

Jeannette Godoy is an interdisciplinary Artist (actor, costume designer, playwright, dancer and social justice educator). She was raised in Inglewood, California and received her BA in Liberal Arts and Sciences with an emphasis in Chicano Studies from San Diego State University. She received her Bilingual Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and has served students both in indigenous communities of Mexico and Los Angeles. After her career in education, Jeannette passionately ventured into the world of Acting and Costume Design. Thereafter, has performed in: Grupo de Teatro Serrano's Mexican History 101, Cornerstone Theater Company's 3 Truths, Cal Vista, Flor and Plumas Negras, the New York Fringe's Brown & Out, Theatruum Boulevard's August: Osage County, and The River's Tragedy, Trash Story, and A Midsummer Night's Dream at UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television. Jeannette would like to dedicate her MFA degree to her mother, Martha Godoy and sister, Claudia Godoy. They have been her examples of resilience and strength, and have encouraged her to always follow her bliss and never give up.
Master of Arts

Temryss Lane Lummi
American Indian Studies
Thesis Title: "North American Indigenous Soccer: Visibility, Healing, and Remembering Wellness"

She's a storyteller and former professional footballer playing in Sweden's Damallsvenskan and the US Women's National Team. Her elite soccer career initiated a career in broadcast journalism, evolving from an on-camera host for networks like Fox Soccer, Fox Sports, beIN Sports and other digital outlets to producing her own digital and documentary features. She continues to work in soccer as a coach, a Native American wellness advocate, and Nike N7 ambassador. She visits Native communities and reservations to coach soccer and mentor the next generation through sports, education, media, and travel. Temryss returned to her studies after graduating as a student-athlete from Arizona State University with a B.S. in Sociology and minor in Communications where her work focuses on visibility and social media as a healing practice for Indigenous North Americans. Temryss' trailblazing efforts in Native American soccer scholarship have created opportunities to present her research at Harvard's "Sports as a Global Phenomenon" conference this spring and at the Native American Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) conference this month in Honolulu. Whether she continues to pursue a career path in higher education and/or activate her research in the community, Temryss Nellie Lane is committed to telling stories of empowerment while bringing soccer and its global educational opportunities to more Native youth in the United States and Canada.

Damien Montano Yaqui/Papago
American Indian Studies
Thesis Title: "Tea Spirit Times: Artistic Expression From Klah to Monkman"

Damien Montano is a Graduate Student in the American Indian Studies Master's Program at UCLA. He is Yaqui and Papago and has ancestral roots in Arizona and Mexico. He received his B.A. in Ethnic Studies with a concentration in Chicana and Chicano Studies from California State University, Fullerton. His work at UCLA focuses primarily on artistic expression, gender and sexuality within indigenous worlds, as well as Two Spirit identity, history/biology, and history. His research is currently exploring Two Spirit artists and their contributions to Indigenous concepts of beauty. He makes and assembles jewelry and emphasizes this craft in his research as an expression of culture and as a marker of identity while drawing bigger connections with indigenous artists, and the gendering. Damien is also an assistant editor of a co-created, indigenous, hyper-galactic, inter-dimensional, social media space called Two Spirit Times. He has also contributed to the Mapping Indigenous Los Angeles project at UCLA, which involves documenting and mapping Pow Wow's and Gatherings throughout the spaces of Los Angeles.

Christopher Roldan
American Indian Studies
Thesis Title: "Hyperprawn Among Adult American Indians in Southern California"

I grew up in Southern California and basically did all my formal education in the area. I graduated from Diamond Bar High School. I went to Mt. SAC in Walnut, I received my Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Cal Poly Pomona and have gone to UCLA for my Master's degree. In the past I have had the opportunity to volunteer at the China Institute for Women as well as tutor local school children in Pomona. I am huge music fan and especially enjoy heavy metal. In my free time I play guitar, skateboard and travel when possible.

Master of Fine Arts

Jeannette Godoy Nahua/Mestiza
Theatre
Acting/ Specialization in Costume Design

AMANTH MOH CHIAZEQUEH QUIZAYANTONALLI
AMANTH MOH CHIAZEQUEH CALAQIYANTONALLI
AMANTH MOH CHIAZEQUEH HUIZTLAMPATEOHTLE
AMANTH MOH CHIAZEQUEH MICTLIAMPATEOHTLE
AMANTH MOH CHIAZEQUEH LIHUCAMPA IHUAN
TLALITICMAMPA
AMANTH MOH CHIAZEQUEH TONTANtzIN
OMETEOTL

Jeannette Godoy is an interdisciplinary Artist (actor, costume designer, playwright, dancer, and social justice educator). She was raised in Inglewood, California and received her BA in Liberal Arts and Sciences with an emphasis in Chicana/o Studies from San Diego State University. She received her Bilingual Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and has served students in indigenous communities of Mexico and Los Angeles. After her career in education, Jeannette passionately ventured into the world of Acting and Costume Design. Thereafter, she has performed in Grupo de Teatro Emergente’s Mexican History 101, Cornerstone Theater Company’s 3 Truths, Cal Vida, Flor and Plumas Negras, the New York Fringe’s Brown & Out, Theatericum’s August: Osage County, and the Mending’s Tragedy, Trash Story, and A Midsummer Night’s Dream at UCLA’s School of Theater Film and Television. Jeannette would like to dedicate her MFA degree to her mother, Martha Godoy and sister, Claudia Godoy. They have been her examples of resilience and strength, and have encouraged her to always follow her bliss and never give up.
Juris Doctorate

Catherine Recinos Pomo/Embena
Public Interest Law and Policy

Catherine was born and raised in Los Angeles. Her relatives are from Robinson Rancheria Band of Pomoos and the Embera Nation of Colombia, South America. Catherine received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Native American Studies from Humboldt State University. During her time as an undergraduate student, Catherine worked with the Karuk Tribe’s Natural Resource Department on their Ur-Dam Project. Catherine is also passionate about increasing access to higher education for Native American Students and helped coordinate the Native College Day at Humboldt State University for local Native students. In addition, she has worked as a Youth and Education Coordinator for California Tribal TANF and coordinated the Summer Native Youth and Cultural Revitalization Program for youth from Robinson Rancheria and Big Valley Band of Pomo. Catherine’s desire to become an attorney came from seeing the need to protect tribal nations, their right to self-determination, and their natural resources both domestically and internationally. Catherine will graduate with her Juris Doctorate degree with a specialization in Public Interest Law & Policy with a focus on Federal Indian Law. Catherine hopes to become a tribal attorney after graduation.

Geneva Thompson Cherokee
Public Interest Law and Policy

Geneva J.B. Thompson graduated from UCLA School of Law with specialization in David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy and Critical Race Studies. She has focused her legal education around the intersection of federal Indian law and environmental law, particularly looking at how Native nations use their natural resources for economic development. During her time in school, Geneva participated in multiple student organizations and journals. Some of her leadership positions include: President of the Native American Law Student Association, Vice President of the Student Bar Association, Diversity and Outreach Editor for the UCLA Law Review, and Chief Managing Editor for the Indigenous Peoples’ Journal of Law, Culture, and Resistance. Her Comment, The Double-Edge Sword to Sovereignty by the Barrel: How Native Nations can Win Environmental Justice in the Fight Against the Harms of Fracking, will be published in the UCLA Law Review Vol. 63. Geneva has also helped develop and use code for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians in Professor William Wood’s Tribal Legal Development Clinic and had the opportunity to attend the 21st United Nations Framework on Climate Change Conference of the Parties to research issues pertaining to Indigenous Peoples’ climate change.

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Catherine Recinos Pomos / Embents
Public Interest Law and Policy

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Geneva Thompson Cherokee
Public Interest Law and Policy

Geneva E.B. Thompson graduated from UCLA School of Law with specialization in David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy and Critical Race Studies. She has focused her legal education around the intersection of federal Indian law and environmental law, particularly looking at how Native nations use their natural resources for economic development. During her time in school, Geneva participated in multiple student organizations and journals. Some of her leadership positions include: President of the Native American Law Student Association, Vice President of the Student Bar Association, Diversity and Outreach Editor for the UCLA Law Review, and Chief Managing Editor for the Indigenous Peoples’ Journal of Law, Culture, and Resistance. Her Comment, The Double-Edge Sword to Sovereignty by the Barrel: How Native Nations can Wield Environmental Justice in the Fight Against the Harms of Fracking, will be published in the UCLA Law Review Vol. 63. Geneva has also helped develop land use code for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians in Professor William Wood’s Tribal Legal Development Clinic and had the opportunity to attend the 21st United Nations Framework on Climate Change Conference of the Parties to research issues pertaining to Indigenous Peoples' and climate change.
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