

# American Indian Resource Center News

UCSC AIRC FALL QUARTER 2007



Cluster Fair Panel, "Status & Strategies for American Indians at UCSCS". From left to right: Adrian Dorris (Zuni Pueblo) SOAR Program Coordinator. Mervin Hess (Bishop Paiute) Director of Gaming Commission. Dr. Amy Lonetree (HoChunk) Assistant Professor of American Studies. Julie Randall (Cheyenne River Sioux) class of '05 and graduate student at UCSB in the fall. Dr. Renya K. Ramirez (HoChunk & White Earth Chippewa) and Assistant professor of American Studies. Not Pictured, Irene Vasquez (Miwok & Paiute), is Merrill College Junior

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## **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:**

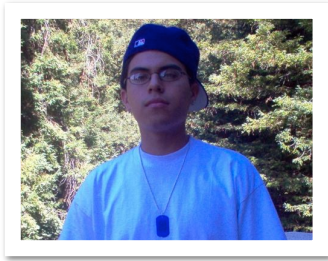
I would like to Welcome Lucio Ramirez to the Center as the permanent Program Coordinator. Carmela Beck, who we all miss took a job with Driscoll's Berries in Watsonville. This fall has already been interesting. We are pleased to be hosting an Honoring Ceremony for Dr. Renya Ramirez to acknowledge the publication of her new book: *Native Hubs: Culture, Community, and Belonging in Silicon Valley and Beyond*. This event will take place on Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 PM in the Cervantes and Velasquez Conference Room in the Bay Tree Building. This event will also be our Welcome for New and Returning Students, Faculty, and Staff.

As many of you know I was drafted when I was nineteen into the Marine Corps in 1966 and was in Dong Ha in 1967. I will be offering a new course through Merrill College titled: *Oral History Project: American Indians and the Vietnam War*. This course will examine the memoirs of American Indians who served as soldiers and Marines in the United States Military during the Vietnam War. The course will explore the transition of being a civilian to being a member of the Marine Corps and the Army. We will discuss the authors' experience of combat and its relationship to tribal culture, whether they joined or were drafted, and the larger context of the war and social issues for Native people. Finally, we will analyze the issues of returning home. *Article continued on page 2*



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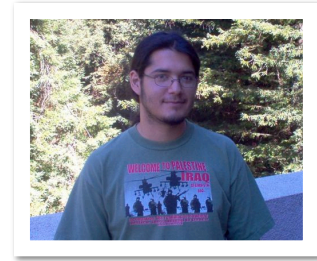
## Meet Our Interns



**Oscar Lopez**



**Marisol Ortiz**



**Ricky Amado Quesnot**

### **Oscar Lopez**

Hello my name is Oscar Lopez! I am a third year from Oakes. I am originally from Los Angeles. Both of my parents are from indigenous towns in Ecuador..

### **Marisol Ortiz**

My name is Marisol Ortiz-Melendrez, a sophomore at Oakes college. I am Native American, affiliated with the Crow Nation as well as Puerto Rican. I am rooted in Oakland and have great pride in where i am from. While at Santa Cruz I am pursuing a degree in legal studies and Education, as well as helping to obtain/sustain a Native voice and community on our campus.

### **Ricky Amado Quesnot**

I'm a wild and crazy guy in my last year at UCSC. I spent most of my college years in student organizations like the Third World and Native American Students Press Collective (TWNAS). Education, Social Justice, Community, Art, Love, Family = my passions. Oh, and I'm finishing my major in LALS.

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### ***Director's Update Continued:***

The second component of the course is to gather the stories of American Indian Vietnam War Veterans. We will write essays based on the narratives collected. From these stories we will begin to structure a web site to house these interviews and essays titled: *Oral History Project: American Indians and the Vietnam War*.

Finally, the plan is to create a web site modeled after the site Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez created at the University of Texas at Austin for their *Oral History Project: U.S. Latinos and Latinas and World War II*. I would also like to add a section to include all the veterans on our campus regardless if they are American Indian and when they served. I believe the veterans on our campus have interesting stories to tell.

The course number is: #44458, Merrill 151, and will be offered in the Winter Quarter, on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 AM – 11:45 AM in Merrill 130.

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## WELCOME NEW AMERICAN STUDIES HO-CHUNK FACULTY -AMY LONETREE



Dear UCSC Native American Community,

I am very excited to be returning to the University of Santa Cruz this fall to assume my new position as an Assistant Professor of American Studies. I have very fond memories of my year spent on the Santa Cruz campus as a Faculty Fellow during the 2002-03 academic year. As you all know, Santa Cruz is a very special place with a great academic community and wonderful resources. It is a dream come true to be on the faculty.

I am an enrolled citizen of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin. I received my Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies from the University of California, Berkeley in 2002 where I specialized in Native American History and Museum Studies. Since receiving my doctorate, I have held faculty positions at San Francisco State University and Portland State University. My areas of academic and teaching interest include Native American History, Museum Studies, Public History, Native American Cultural Production, Indigenous activism and efforts towards decolonization, and Ho-Chunk tribal history.

In addition to my academic training, I have also held positions in the museum field as an exhibit researcher and educator. I have worked for the Minnesota Historical Society, the British Museum, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, and the Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley. I have published articles based on this research in the *American Indian Quarterly* and the *Public Historian*, and I'm currently working on an edited volume with Amanda J. Cobb, on the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. My future research projects include working on a Ho-Chunk tribal history, and a book length project on the changing historical relationship between Indigenous people and museums.

My teaching schedule for the upcoming academic year has not been finalized yet, so please keep a look out for it.

I look forward to seeing you this fall!

Best wishes, Amy Lonetree

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## VISITING FACULTY PROFILE-MICHELLE ERAI



Michelle Erai is a recent graduate of the History of Consciousness program at UCSC and is a visiting Assistant Professor with the Feminist Studies for 2007/08.

Michelle is from Aotearoa, New Zealand, Michelle belongs to three North Island tribes - Ngapuhi, Ngati Whatua and Ngati Porou.

She will be teaching a class on Violence Against Women of Color this Fall, which will examine intersections of race, gender, class and sexuality within the lives of women of color, with a particular focus on indigenous analyses.

For the past two years Michelle has been a researcher with

Amokura, a family violence prevention consortium.

Her work there included coordinating a digital photography project with Maori youth.

A founding member of the U.S. based Incite! Women of Color Against Violence, Michelle has over twenty years experience in the anti-violence movement as both an academic and an activist. Michelle's office is in Humanities 1 building, room 339, office hours are Tuesdays, 2-4pm.

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## CLUSTER FAIR PANEL- “STATUS & STRATEGIES FOR NATIVE AMERICANS AT UCSC”

By, **Lucio Ramirez**

On October 17th Cluster Fair, the AIRC sponsored the “Status and Strategies Panel for Native Americans at UCSC”. We had an excellent panel with students, alum, faculty and staff. An overarching problem that was discussed, was feeling isolated here at UCSC. Adrian Dorris spoke to the level of racism and acceptance of it that goes on here for American Indians. As a student and staff Adrian has experienced more than his share of questions of mockery and blatant racism. Such mocking questions are far too common experience for Native Americans here at UCSC.

The panel discussed possible avenues to pursue to get more Native American professors on campus with the eventual goal of establishing a NAS major. The panel was in consensus that establishing a Native American faculty presence is a critical, if not, the most important step in both improving campus climate and attracting active Native American Students. Dr. Ramirez, Dr. Lonetree, & Dr. Tibbetts have already begun to begin the process of surveying the preexisting courses currently being taught to begin the petition for an Native American Studies minor.

Dr. Lonetree, reminded us that although we are a small group we get along, which is extremely helpful in working to improve the status of American Indian on campus. Dr. Tibbetts got student and alumni input on the impact a

Native American Theme Floor could have on Campus. All felt that this would be a positive step in building the community and would work towards attenuating the isolating experience that Native Americans face at UCSC. Currently Dr. Tibbetts is forming a work group to to develop a Residential Theme Floor at Merrill College.

Mervin Hess spoke frankly that from his impression of touring this campus with high school honors students from Bishop and conducting web research. He stated, that currently at UCSC there is not enough resources in place to help Native American students feel comfortable coming from a tribal community such as his.

At the American Indian Resource Centers we have a number of programs and ongoing events that are intended to address these issues.

We will be taking a group to the **November 17th Turkey Trot. We train ever Wednesday at 5pm at the East field track.** All levels of fitness are welcome so please come out! For Info visit <http://sctc.runners.net/>.

We will be beginning training for our **Peer Mentoring Program November 8th** which will provide academic/community support and student leadership opportunities.

We also have liaisons with local communities and opportunities for cultural and community gatherings.

## INDIAN RUNNERS

By, **Dr. Dennis Tibbetts**

We have a long history of being excellent runners, indeed some tribes have traditions centered on running. Brandon Leslie a 31-year-old Navajo will be running in the Marathon Olympic Trails on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> in Central Park, New York. His qualifying time was 2:15, that's a pace of 5 minutes and 8 seconds per mile for 26.2 miles. There is an excellent article about him in November issue of *Runner's World*. Leslie was a super star coming out of high school and finished 6<sup>th</sup> at the famous Foot Locker finals to Adam Goucher and Meb Kefezighi who finished first and second respectively. Goucher and Kefezighi are two runners favored to make the team.

Leslie attended Northern Arizona University out of high school only to return to the reservation after six months. According to the article this is all to typical of the many talented distance runners in the Indian community. Leslie went through a series of ups and downs that included alcohol, quitting running, and not finishing his education. He rededicated himself to completing his degree. And he returned to his gift of running and has used traditional ceremonies to bring him back to being in balance with his running and his life. According to the article, while he is focused on making the Olympic team, he is simply he is simply praying for a positive outcome.

# Fall

## American Indian Resource Center 2007 Calendar of Events



23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				Instruction Begins		
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>OCTOBER</b>						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			AIRC Walk/Run 5pm @ East Field			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			Resource Centers Cluster Fair 11am-4pm @ Bay Tree Conference Rooms			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			AIRC Walk/Run 5pm @ East Field		22th Annual California Indian Conference UC Davis October 26th & 27th	
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	Graduate Student Lunch 12:30pm @ Cervantes Velasquez Conf. Rm.		AIRC Walk/Run 5pm @ East Field		AIRC Fall Welcome: Faculty Honoring Dr. Remya K. Ramirez "Native Hubs",	
					29th Annual 2007 AISES Conference Phoenix AZ, Nov 1-3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			AIRC Walk/Run 5pm @ East Field		Peer Mentoring Program Orientation	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Veterans Day Holiday		AIRC Walk/Run 5pm @ East Field		Santa Cruz Turkey Trot 5k/10K Walk/Run	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				Thanksgiving Holiday		Academic Holiday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
			AIRC Walk/Run 5pm @ East Field		Instruction Ends 12/5 Wrap Up Potluck 12/5 Time & Loc TBA	
<b>DECEMBER</b>						



**10/17 Cluster Fair Keynote Dr. Paul Ortiz and Dr. Renya K. Ramirez.**

## **Important Events & Programs**

**Peer Mentoring Program--Contact Lucio Ramirez to get involved**

**November 17: Santa Cruz Turkey Trot, 5k/10k Walk Run**

**December 5: Fall Wrap up Potluck @ 4pm  
Muwekma Ohlone Conference Room C**

**New Course at Merrill college: Oral  
History project: American Indians & The  
Vietnam War-- Winter Quarter 2008**

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1156 High Street  
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