

# American Indian Resource Center News

UCSC AIRC Spring QUARTER 2008



Picture of April BBQ, hosted by the AIRC @ the Bay Tree Patio 2. Everyone is enjoying the warm spring weather and chili dogs.

## DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:

We have several items we are currently working on: a) developing a cohort experience for First Year American Indian students, b) the continuing development of a campus presence for the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band who are the indigenous people of this region, and c) the continuing work on the Oral History Project: *American Indians and the Vietnam War*.

To address the isolation that some Native American students feel coming to UCSC we are planning to provide a cohort experience that many large universities offer their first year students to assist them in making the transition to the university. The plan is to provide this particular cohort a place in one of the yet to be determined courses in American Studies that focuses on the Native American experience. The students will have access to Native American mentors who may be peers, staff, and faculty.

The Amah Mutsun tribal leaders had their first meeting with Chancellor Blumenthal to discuss several issues that they feel are important to them and possible ways to collaborate with the University. The Amah and the Center will be hosting an unveiling of a mural they have commissioned in the very near future. The artist for the mural is Ann Thiermann, a local Santa Cruz artist. The mural will be on back wall of the Cervantes and Velaquez Conference Room in the Bay Tree Building. The mural is a representation of a pre-contact village. Everyone is looking forward to this event as the Amah Mutsun Tribe continues develop their presence on our campus. *Article continued on page 2*

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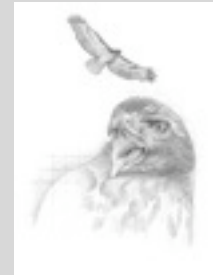
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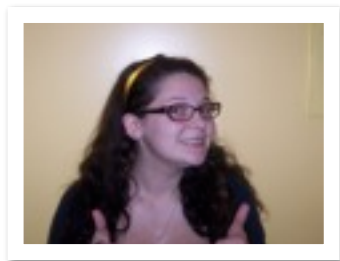
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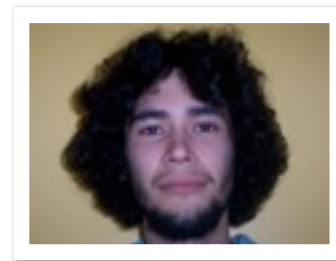
## Meet Our Interns



**Allison Jeanne Brown**



**Nydia Ramirez**



**Lance Woodson**

### **Allison Jeanne Brown**

C'amai (helloooooo). I am Allison Brown, a third year Porter student. I am an enrolled member of Naknek Village in Alaska, making me an Aleut Alaska Native. I am also Lakota and Cherokee. I grew up in the SF Bay Area and love its rich diversity. I have four grey cats and 5 half siblings. I love cooking, especially making vegan versions of non-vegan meals. I am interested in politics, tattoos, magazine journalism, peace, equality, vegetables, the SF Giants, the GS Warriors, bad reality TV, and herbal teas. College is hard, but these things make it easier. Part of the reason I am still in college is because I decided to dedicate my life to ending racism and reversing the impact it has had on marginalized communities. I am majoring in American Studies and dabbling in the area of education. Essentially, I believe that students, especially the young ones, are the future and hope lies in them. Opportunities for education that challenge the master narrative of American history can do a lot for ALL marginalized groups. I want to live to see something resembling a true equality, so that's why I'm doing what I do. The more perspectives, the more wholesome a worldview, the more tolerance, the more peace! I would really love to see a greater Native presence on campus and hope to work out some events/programs to make that possible. PEACE.

### **Nidya Yarely Ramirez**

My name is Nidya Ramirez and I am a fourth year majoring in Feminist Studies with a minor in history. I grew up in Escondido, CA but carry my roots from Nayarit, Mexico in my heart wherever I go. I take pride in my indigenous family history and the Huichol blood that runs through me and connects me to my people no matter the distance. I am excited to be an intern this quarter!

### **Lance Woodson**

My name is Lance Cameron Woodson and I am Western Shoshone from northeastern Nevada. I'm in my second year at UCSC and I plan to declare Community Studies major by the end of the quarter but my focus will be documentaries. I lived on campus last year in the Merrill dorms but now I share a house on the East Side of Santa Cruz. I have been a SANAI (Student Alliance for North American Indians) member since my first quarter freshman year and now I'm a co-signer for the organization. I also sit on the Student Union Assembly and the Committee for Ethnic Programming, where I represent SANAI. On my free time I like to go to the beach, take walks through the forest, and explore Santa Cruz County.

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## CREATIVE ARTIST COLUMN

### *Warriors*

Five hundred years before being released from the warmth and protection of my mother's womb,  
the life of my ancestors had already confronted imperial violence,  
the molding of my mestiza identity imposed on me by the rape of our women, our land, along with my  
present struggles had begun,  
The Spanish colonized not only lands but defiant minds and bodies,  
drums prohibited from beating with the same intensity,  
tongues cut for exposing the familiar sounds of home,  
The earth carefully nurtured and honored was transformed, invaded,  
used by the Spanish to feed greed and materialism,  
My present and past family has been resisting since then,  
finding means to survive among systems of oppression and injustice planted deep in our soil,  
exploding daily like deadly bombs,  
Starving stomachs, dry mouths, violated bodies, conditioned minds, suffocating voices,  
unite, fight, oppose, unlearn, stand up, scream

Like a blood line from my ancestors to me,  
Colonization to post-colonialism to neo-colonialization  
Injected poison in our veins  
a United States inoculation, an old familiar face  
new colonizer of my Mexica people,  
The one we yearn to sterilize from our bodies,  
pregnant countless years, many months, and endless days with rage and revolution,  
Once again colonizer forces us to plant seeds, cook our own cultivations,  
sweep earth coated in marble, build plantation homes  
provide others with the riches and luxury stolen from our dignity,

We cross borders to survive,  
we hide while the real criminals mask their corruption with names like  
operation Iraqi FREEDOM and phrases like JUSTICE for all,  
they must have a different dictionary than us

We speak different tongues:  
Spanish, English, Spanglish to live and persevere,  
Nahuatl and Mayan when traveling, moving and inciting energies around the drum like true Mexicas,  
reviving our indigenous hearts,

Before the family that I know now and I were born our existence was already being constructed,  
the struggle, this battle had already begun,  
and we were preparing to warriors.

*Nideya Yarely Ramirez*



## **NATIVE AMERICAN FACULTY UPDATE**

Hi Native students, faculty, and staff!

We want to share a number of initiatives that we as Native faculty are working on in order to strengthen a Native American and Indigenous presence here at UC Santa Cruz. We want to support an intellectual endeavor that is transnational in scope and includes the histories and experiences of U.S. and other Indigenous peoples from throughout the Americas. Our transnational approach reflects cutting edge work being done in Native American and American Studies. It also follows the approach taken by the first ever Native Studies Association that was recently founded in Athens, Georgia in April of 2008. This association is called the *Native American and Indigenous Studies Association*.

- 1) Creation of a Native American/Indigenous Studies Minor in American Studies that would include courses taught in American studies and other departments across the campus.
- 2) Development of a Native American/Indigenous Research Center. An initial step is to develop a website that highlights faculty who teach and/or conduct research regarding Native American and Indigenous Issues. Another is to bring interested faculty together.
- 3) Formation of an On-Going Native American/Indigenous Speaker Series.
- 4) Hiring another UC Presidents Postdoc in Native American studies.
- 5) A UC wide Native American/Indigenous Studies Consortium.
- 6) Collaborating with the AIRC in the development of a cohort of Native freshmen by encouraging them to take American Studies 80E taught by Amy Lonetree or Renya Ramirez.
- 7) Supporting the AIRC & the Amah Mutsun in the development of an On-line Amah Mutsun Language Course.

*Sincerely,*

*Renya Ramirez (American Studies) and Amy Lonetree (American Studies)*

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## **CREATING COMMUNITY AND CELEBRATING THE SACRED AT UCSC**



Over the course of the Four-Day Ceremony we had over 45 participants in the renewal of the Sweat Lodge. We had UCSC Undergraduate Students, Graduates Students, Staff and Faculty participate in the Ceremony. Spiritual Leaders came to lead some of the Sweat Ceremonies, from hundreds of miles away, from the Mono, Tachi Yokut and the Northern Cheyenne. We also local Bay Area In-

dian Community Leaders from the Indian Health Center of Santa Clara and the American Indian Alliance of San Jose and from Fresno come and support. We also had other Native College Students from Stanford, and San Francisco State. The ceremony gave us a time to celebrate spirituality and strengthen our community in the natural beauty of this campus.  
**By, Lucio G. Cloud Ramirez**

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# SANAI- STUDENT ALLIANCE OF NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS

**SANAI** is an organization whose purpose is to increase the awareness of both the University and community environments regarding issues affecting North American Indians. SANAI also provides academic and moral support for Native American students. Major activities over the years have included "Red Rocks"- a Spring Music Festival with prominent Native American Bands, Pow-Wows, a Tribal Elders Conference and Native American Graduation Ceremonies. SANAI has a rich history of collaborating with other student organizations.



**\*Picture of SANAI doing what they do best!\***

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

I finished teaching the first class of the *American Indians and the Vietnam War*. I was encouraged by the response to this course. As you know teaching a course for the first time is challenging and this was no different. I was drafted by the Marine Corps and was in Vietnam in 1968 and the sharing of this experience was not always an easy thing to do. However, I have been given with the opportunity to teach the course again in the Winter Quarter, which I am looking forward to. The highlight of the course is the opportunity for the students to conduct taped interviews with American Indian Vietnam veterans. We are still in the process of creating a web site to archive these interviews.

Finally, the Center wants to offer congratulations to Kirsten Concha-Moure, (*Taos Pueblo*) First Year Student at Kresge College, who finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the Mountain Bike Downhill at the world renowned Sea Otter Classic that was held in Monterey in April.

**By, Dennis W. Tibbetts**

# SPRING

## American Indian Resource Center 2008 Events & Programs



30	31	1	2	3	4	5
<b>APRIL</b>						A.I. Affinty Meeting @ Muwekema Conf. Rm. 10-11:30am
6	7	8	9	10	Catalina Ventura @ Stevensons Fireside Lounge 4-6pm	11 Spring Welcome BBQ Patio 2, Baytree Building 12-2pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Amah Mutsun Tribal Dances @ Mt. Madonna Four Day Sweat Ceremony April 17-20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Hartnell Pow-Wow, UCSC Native American Outreach Booth
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 <b>MAY</b>
4	5	6	7	8	Mayan Poet Concom Pech Book Talk Cervantez-Velasquez Conference Rm. 11am-1pm	9 May Lunch Potluck UCSC Women's Center 12-2pm
11	12	Winona LaDuke ESLP Speaker Series @ Clas Rm. Unit 2, 7-10pm	13	14	15	16 A.I. Affinty Meeting @ Univ House 12-2:00 pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<b>JUNE</b>						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						Intruccion Ends
June 13th AIRC Native Graduation @ Cervantes & Velasquez Conference Room at 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM						



#### **4/4 Native American Affinity Group Meeting**

### **Important Events & Programs**

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

**May 9th: Native Potluck @ Women's Center**

**May 19th: Native American Affinity Group Meeting @ University House**

**June 13th: Native American Graduation Ceremony @ Cervantes and Velasquez Conference Rooms**

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