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words of welcome
- ‘sisters of all nations’
honor missing and
murdered women
- indigenous peoples’
day retrospective
and
- the first anaay
midwinter social



roe cloud
from the yale native community



*Indigenous Peoples' Day 2014
October 11-13*

The Association of Native Americans at Yale celebrated over 500 years of indigenous resistance to genocide and colonialism brought to the Western hemisphere by Christopher Columbus. **Left:** Yale President Peter Salovey stops to drum with Blue Feather drum group. **Below:** ANAAY members on the New Haven Green. Native students worked with city organizations and Latino groups, garnering an official declaration of Indigenous Peoples' Day from the Mayor.

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from the editors

February 12, 2015

Dear Reader,

After graduating from high school, I was told not to expect that people out in the enormous, daunting real world would be like the people from my tight-knit Native community. Friends that left our small town for college would count the days until they could come home. To my surprise, I found that I was never one of them. I found another home at 26 High Street. At Yale I found a group of people who also moved from their Native communities at home into this new hodgepodge. A group whose very existence reflects the Native community in its ability to be diverse and united at the same time. Most importantly, a group of people who, on an essential, human level, care deeply about each other. I hope that this newsletter can commemorate this. I'll forever be grateful to the NACC and its community for teaching me that home isn't just where you grew up. I think a lot of us feel this way about the house, especially given the growth the center and its students have done together in the past few years.

-Haylee Kushi '18



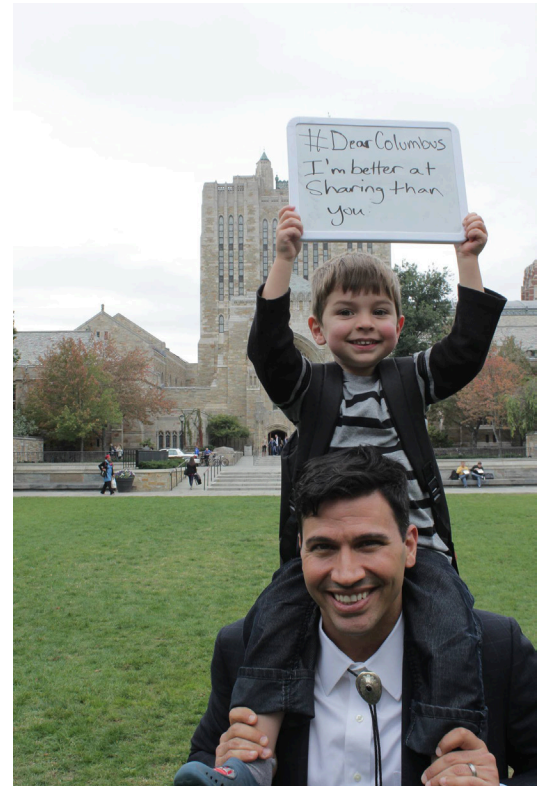
Last night, we stood in the kitchen discussing the week's upcoming events at the NACC. Three of our largest groups had accidentally booked events at the same time at the NACC, and an argument ensued over who would move their event to another time. The tension quickly diffused as an alumnus in the room (I'noli Hall '13) began laughing with excitement over this predicament. He reminded us that a mere three or four years ago, Native students would have loved to have this argument. That's why I can confidently say that in the past two years, the NACC has experienced its largest growth spurt in history, and requires a renewed commitment to outreach. Thus the idea of this newsletter came about. We hope to exhibit our vibrant, blossoming community at Yale, in all its creativity, activism, culture, and strength.

-Sebi Medina-Tayac '16

moving forward

To the NACC community:

It is a great honor and privilege to serve as the interim director of the Native American Cultural Center (NACC) once again this semester. This is an institution with a growing history of increasing educational opportunities for Native students and community members. I feel a profound responsibility to our students and their families, to those who came before us and built the legacy of NACC, as well as to those who will follow us into the future. Perhaps it has always been so, but this feels like an especially exciting time in our community, with abundant challenges, but also with extraordinary opportunities arising from emerging Native group programming, and the interest of cultural center advancement. I can think of no better place from which to try and make a positive impact, nor any more dedicated team with which to work toward such worthy goals.



As I enter into my second semester as the interim director, I have come to learn that the NACC is a truly unique place that inspires extraordinary loyalty. First and foremost, we are galvanized together through our shared commitment to a precious mission, focused on helping Native peoples who are among society's most vulnerable. But beyond that, there is something special about the paradox of our interest—that we are at once wholly focused on cultural sustainability, while pursuing progress across a tripartite array of approaches that span community building, transparency and education. This constitutes an incredibly rich environment within which to learn, develop and grow. For those fortunate enough to have spent our formative years here, it becomes a part of us—the culture from which we are born as professionals, a haven and a home. Hence, we are drawn back to the NACC as a touchstone, a place to rekindle friendships and to renew ourselves as colleagues.

Sincerely,
Christopher J. Cutter, Ph.D.

Acting Assistant Dean, Yale College
Interim Director, Native American Cultural Center
Associate Research Scientist, Yale School of Medicine





Yale Midwinter Social

Saturday, February 28 | 3:30 -8 pm
Afro-American Cultural Center | 211 Park Street

native food, arts, intertribal music and dance,
raffle, door prizes, fundraiser and more

Featuring the best Powwow drums in the region: Mystic River (CT)
Blue Feather (Yale) | Storm Boys (RI) | Silver Cloud (NY)
Wampum Boys (MA) | Urban Thunder (MA)
MC: Aaron Athey (Mohegan)

Hosted by the **Association of Native Americans at Yale** and **Spirit Lake, LLC**
Raising money for the Spirit Lake Foundation's youth basketball tournament
For more information, including parking, vending, and dancing, please contact
sebastian.medina-tayac@yale.edu and spiritlakeinc@comcat.net

Sponsored by Spirit Lake, LLC – Yale Native American Cultural Center – Yale President's & Dean's discretionary fund – Yale UOC – Institute of Sacred Music – Ezra Stiles College



the yale native american cultural center

undergraduate groups

The NACC has eight undergraduate student groups explained below. The contact information of each group's student leader is listed as well; all interested in joining these groups are welcomed to contact them.

Yale's first American Indian performance group, **Blue Feather Drum Group** showcases both traditional and contemporary drum music, fostering intertribal exchange, creating a welcoming space for cultural participation, and making the Native presence heard on and off campus. Check us out on Facebook, YouTube and Tumblr. Contact Reed Bobroff, bluefeatheryale@gmail.com



Yale's central and oldest Native student organization (founded in 1989), the **Association of Native Americans at Yale (ANAAY)** seeks to unite the community under the goal of increasing the Native presence on campus through education, advocacy, and cultural expression. We meet Saturdays at 4 pm at the NACC. Contact: Sebi Medina-Tayac, sebastian.medina-tayac@yale.edu



Yale Native American Arts Council (YNAAC) is designed to educate, promote, and create Native American art. Contact: Emily Van Alst, emily.vanalst@yale.edu



American Indians in Science and Engineering Society (AISES) gives Yale Native students in the sciences a national network and a campus community to engage for academic and professional development, with the mission to "increase substantially the representation of American Indian and Alaskan Natives in engineering, science and other related technology disciplines." Contact: Vanessa Noelte, vanessa.noelte@yale.edu

Indian Health Initiative promotes healthy and active lifestyles for Natives. We have biweekly basketball games that all are welcomed to join. Mondays at 7:00pm and Thursdays 8:00pm. Contact: Karleh Wilson, karleh.wilson@yale.edu

Yale Sisters of All Nations is dedicated to creating a safe, supportive space for Native women on campus through advocacy work, the open discussion of gender and sexuality issues in Indian Country, and networking/mentorship opportunities. YSAN meets every Monday evening at 7pm in the Native American Cultural Center Conference Room (First Floor). Contact: Dinee Dorame, dinee.dorame@yale.edu

graduate and professional groups

The **Yale Group for the Study of Native America (YGSNA)**, led by Professor of History and American Studies New Blackhawk (Western Shoshone), is an interdisciplinary working group centered around topics relating to the study of Native American and Indigenous peoples. YGSNA showcases works-in-progress and is composed of graduate students, faculty, and staff from across Yale. See YGSNA schedule, page 13.

The **Indigenous Graduate Network (IGN)** aims to foster community, support, and professional development among Native American and Indigenous identified graduate and professional students at Yale. Over the past three years since IGN was created, our programming has included a variety of social events and professionalization workshops.

The **Native American Law Students Association (NALSA)** is dedicated to providing personal, professional, and cultural support to Yale's Native American law students and fostering a community among all law students who are interested in Indian legal issues. They are committed to educating Yale's student body about Indian law, tribal sovereignty, and indigenous rights.



student employees

House Managers run the NACC, maintaining the physical facility, staffing programs, and keeping the doors open and welcoming. This involves a hodgepodge of tasks like drilling the Xbox into the cabinet, setting up for events, keeping the Facebook page up to date, baking snacks for NACC parties...the list goes on. Students are welcome to apply at the beginning of the fall semester. Contact Vanessa Noelte, vanessa.noelte@yale.edu

Peer Liaisons are a group of Native upperclassmen available as resources to freshmen – whether they need counseling, academic help, friendship, or just food. Come by the NACC during Sunday night study breaks or liaison office hours (6:00pm – 10:00pm) to hang out!

Contact: Justin Riner, justin.riner@yale.edu

The NACC **Graduate Assistant Program Coordinator**, Verner Wilson FES '15, assists the dean with organizational and logistical tasks, and facilitates meetings with the house managers and peer liaisons.

the nacc is open seven days a week, from 4 to 10 pm

26 High St., New Haven, CT 06520

(ancestral homelands of the Quinnipiac people)

to request access, students should email

christopher.cutter@yale.edu

visit [instagram.com/yalenacc](https://www.instagram.com/yalenacc) | nacc.yalecollege.yale.edu

looking back: fall 2014

The Yale Native community has grown quickly into its new cultural center, which opened Fall 2013, under the leadership of Interim Director Dr. Christopher Cutter (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation). Students have worked diligently to expand the Native American Cultural Center, which is larger and more diverse than ever. A group of undergraduate and graduate Native women led by Dine Dorame '15 (Diné) founded the center's newest organization, **Yale Sisters of All Nations**, to improve the campus presence, networking opportunities, and interpersonal bonds for Native women. Yale's chapter of **American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)** got on its legs again due to the hard work of President Vanessa Noelte '16 (Mi'kmaq) and Kodi Alvord '17 (Diné), inviting engaging speakers from other campuses and hosting events, both collaborative and internal, for the first time in memory. The **Native American Law Students Association**, under Katie Jones LAW '16 (Cherokee) and Allison Tjemsland LAW '17 (Jamestown S'klallm), has hosted several high-profile speakers including Kevin Washburn (Chickasaw), head of the BIA, and Keith Harper (Cherokee), ambassador to the UN Human Rights Council, quickly making it among the most active and recognized groups in the NACC and campus-wide.



Hawaiian Students Visit

A group of students from Moloka'i High School came to visit Yale on their East Coast college tour. The NACC was happy to host them for a New Haven pizza dinner, and speak with them about going to college after coming from a small indigenous community. Blue Feather Drum Group led a round dance and the Hawaiian students taught a hula and shared a chant.

Remembering Sand Creek

In December, ANAAY and the **Yale Group for the Study of Native America** hosted a vigil for the 150th anniversary of the Sand Creek Massacre, joining groups across the US in a call for a National Day of Remembrance (November 29) for Native lives lost to genocidal violence.

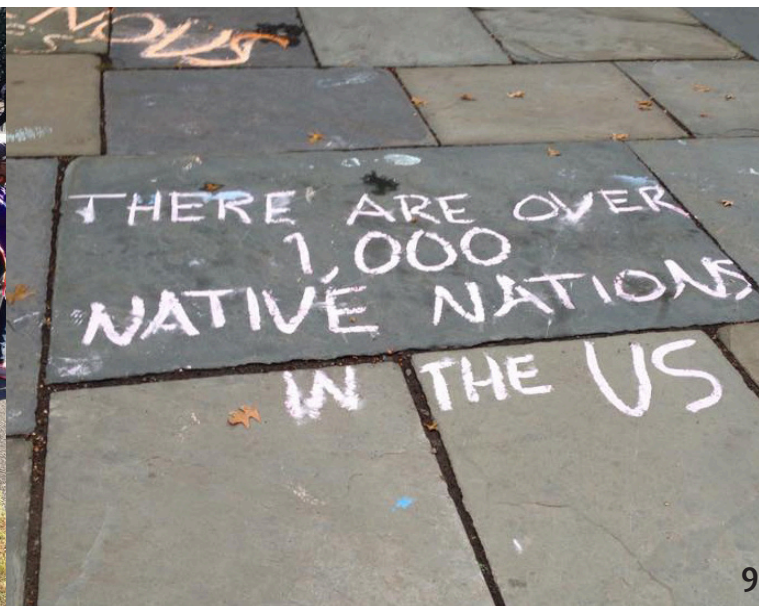


indigenous peoples' day

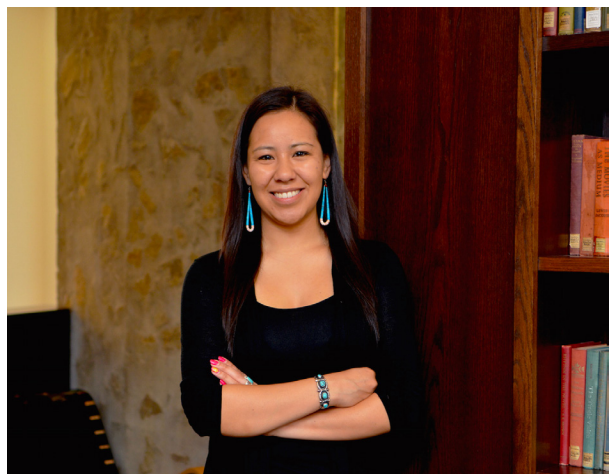
In mid-October, the **Association of Native Americans at Yale**, led by Christian Brown '15 and Sebi Medina-Tayac '16, connected with their Latino peers as well as Native organizations in New Haven to host the largest Indigenous People's Day demonstration in memory. The two-day event featured speeches, educational materials, a social media campaign, and performances by the **Blue Feather Drum Group** both on Yale campus and in downtown New Haven. **The Yale Native American Arts Council** held a whiteboard campaign, in which students walking on Yale's Cross Campus that day were invited to send Columbus a message.



Top left to right: Verner Wilson III, “#DearColumbus, We’re still here!”; Karleh Wilson ‘16 and Ashton Megli ‘17 raise fists in support of the IPD movement during an honor song; Nicota Stevenson ‘17, “#DearColumbus, Learn how to read a map #notIndia” *Bottom left to right:* ANAAY members pose with Native supporters from New Haven on the Green; chalking campaign builds awareness on campus.



senior spotlight: dinée dorame



This month's featured student is Ezra Stiles senior Dinée Dorame, hailing from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dinée has been active in the NACC community all four years of her Yale career. Now, she is both the women's song leader for Blue Feather Drum group, and the only native recruitment coordinator at Yale's admissions office. Serving the overall Yale community as well, she is a Yale Leading Lady and a Freshman Counselor.

How has NACC changed since you joined the community as a freshman?

The NACC has gone through significant waves of change in the past four years. When I arrived at Yale, the community provided me with great friends, but four years later I would say I'm most appreciative of now having a safe space on campus in our new cultural center building and feeling like those friends have become family.

What do you enjoy the most about the NACC community?

My involvement in Blue Feather Drum Group has not only been what I enjoyed most within the NACC, but has also been one of my most valuable Yale experiences. Amidst the stressful, work-intensive Yale environment, Blue Feather gave me some of my best friends and also a space to breathe, sing, dance and have fun in a way that kept me grounded.

Why did you decide to become a Freshmen Counselor?

I had a fantastic Freshmen Counselor during my first year, but I still struggled with culture shock and insecurities in my Native identity. I always wished there had been more opportunities to speak to upperclassmen students of color, particularly Natives, about my experience. There are generally few Native Freshmen Counselors (if any), so having myself and Christian Brown (a fellow Native senior) both being visible in campus-wide leadership positions and acting as resources this year, is valuable. It is so important to have safe spaces to inhabit and people to talk with, so I felt that my presence in the NACC as a Freshmen Counselor was really important in giving back to the community.

How do you feel about Native admissions?

I've loved my time working in the admissions office. I've always been one of the only Native people present in the office, but they are very supportive of our community and working hard to get more Native students to Yale.

What advice do you have for younger native students?

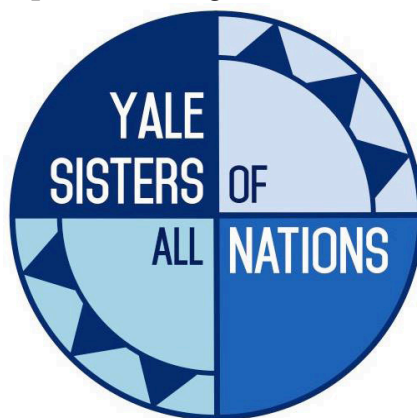
When I was a freshman, I wish someone would have told me that everyone at Yale struggles with individual problems and insecurities, and it's okay to ask for help. Many of us feel insecure in our own identity or are trying to cope culturally in this environment, but remember that you belong here, you can succeed, and you are loved.

yale sisters of all nations

Yale Sisters of All Nations (YSAN) is the first Native women's organization on campus, founded this year by Dinée Dorame, Ezra Stiles '15. Its acronym also stands for its primary purposes: Support, Advocate, Network. In Dorame's words, the group will serve as "a safe space for Indigenous women of the Yale community to connect, intellectually engage with one another about important issues facing women in Indian Country, and find mentorship through alumnae and graduate students."

Group events will include dinners spotlighting the work of women in the community, cultural exchange, and discussion around issues of gender and sexuality. YSAN aims to help build friendships, but also has an initiative which will advocate for increased representation of Native women in the Yale student body and faculty.

"As a Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies major, I have seen a gap in the resources offered to Native women on campus, so I wanted to provide a larger platform for women of color to discuss relevant issues in our communities," says Dorame. While the group's primary agenda is to serve Native women, all Yale students interested in attending events, engaging with these issues, or joining the community are welcomed.



this saturday: honoring missing and murdered indigenous women with ysan and save wiyabi

#HOWWEDISAPPEAR

*Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women:
A Valentine's Day Teach-In*



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2015
YALE NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER 3RD FLOOR
26 HIGH STREET, NEW HAVEN, CT 3:00-5:00PM

Despite a plethora of Valentine's Day celebrations that are held on February 14th, the date also acts as a global activism day to end violence against women. Yale Sisters of All Nations will be co-sponsoring two events with the Save Wiyabi Project, a non-profit advocacy group that aims to address violence against Native American women. The teach-in will be led by Save Wiyabi Project co-founder Lauren Chief Elk and Yale PhD candidate in history Tiffany Hale. Join them at the NACC from 3:00pm to 5:00pm this Saturday to learn more about the day of activism and their mission to create safe spaces for native women.

Indigenous women are going missing and being murdered at alarmingly high rates both in the United States and in Canada. In their fight to move forward, the groups will also look back in reverence and remember that these numbers are more than just statistics - they are lives. The teach-in will be followed by a performance by Blue Feather Drum Group and a vigil in honor of these lives at 5:30pm.

building a home

by kodi alvord



There's a sort of feeling one gets when entering the NACC that is quite unlike anything else. There's a sense of welcome, a sense of optimism, and a sense of home. In my time at Yale, the NACC has been a second home, it has been a refuge, and it has been the core of my college experience.

In my freshman year, I joined the Association of Native Americans at Yale (ANAAY), the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), and Blue Feather Drum Group. Though I love all the student groups, I view Blue Feather as the predominant aspect of my NACC experience, and I see it as being representative of the NACC experience as a whole. I first witnessed the true magic of Blue Feather and of the Cultural Center at the yearly barbecue, which was hosted on Old Campus at that time. I joined in a round dance, and was invited by a smiling Sebi Medina-Tayac and Reed Bobroff to join them at the house later that week. They convinced me to check out Blue Feather, and though I was nervous to join, I received only encouragement from all Blue Feather members. I remember the first time I held a drum; the rush I felt as every honor beat shook the ground and resonated in my heart. As I began to truly know everyone

in the house and in Blue Feather, our biweekly practices became one of my most anticipated activities; indeed, there were many times when Blue Feather got me through my weeks. As I attended practices and learned the songs, I realized that we were making two different kinds of beautiful music: powwow songs and laughter. This type of wonderful experience is frequent in the NACC, and it is the closest thing to magic I have ever experienced.

A wise man, (known to some as David Rico, known to others as Campfire David) once told me that we define our relationships to our ethnicities; they do not define us. I thought about this for some time. I came to realize that we come to the house to find ourselves, and we come looking for familiarity, for home. Some of us come to the house trying to understand our identity and to forge our own unique relationship to it. I then understood the deeper truth; we come to the NACC to find each other. To quote *Into the Wild*, "Happiness is only real when shared". Never in my life has that been truer than at Yale, and I can only say that I am truly blessed to have entered such a loving, adventurous, and spirited community. As we continue to grow together and accomplish new things, I know that this community will remain my most beloved treasure within Yale, and I believe that it will always be the source of love, friendship, and a sense of home for future generations.



Kodi Alvord

Vice President of the Association of Native Americans at Yale

Vice President of the Yale American Indian Science and Engineering Society

Social Coordinator of Blue Feather Drum Group



Yale Group for the Study of Native America (YGSNA) Spring Semester 2015

| | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday, January 13 | YGSNA Organizational & Planning Meeting |
| Wednesday, January 21 77 Prospect St., Room A002 | Daniel Carpenter, (Harvard) "Transformations in Iroquois Complaint and Request, 1680-1760" |
| Wednesday, February 4 | Clifford Atleo, (Alberta) "Living Nuu-chah-nulth-aht: Aboriginal Capitalism and Indigenous Alternatives" |
| Wednesday, February 18 | Tess Lanzaotta, (Yale) "A Lab at the Top of the World: Circumpolar Health and Indigenous Politics in Cold War Alaska" |
| Tuesday, February 24 11:30AM-12:30PM | Holly Guise, (Yale) "Aleut Interment: A Story Between the Censored and Silenced" |
| Tuesday, February 24 4PM, HGS 401 | Claudio Saunt, (Georgia) "Treaties, Borders, and Vectors: Mapping Colonial Expansion Online" |
| Tuesday, March 3 Yale Law School, Details TBA | James Anaya, Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples |
| Week of March 23 Yale Law School, Details TBA | Suzan Shown Harjo & Kevin Gover, "The Washington Football Team: Native Imagery, Cultural Appropriation, and the Law" |
| Tuesday, March 31 6:30-8:30PM, YLS Auditorium | "Sliver of a Full Moon" Performance on the Passage of the Violence Against Women (VAWA) Act |
| Wednesday, April 1 12:10-1PM, YLS (Room TBA) | "Tribal Nations and the Violence Against Women Act" Panel |
| Wednesday, April 15 Details TBA | Steven Salaita, Luncheon and Afternoon Panel on Settler Colonialism |
| Date & Details TBA | Jodi Gillette, Special Assistant to President Obama for Native American Affairs |

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Unless otherwise noted, all events begin at noon and take place at the
Yale Native American Cultural Center (NACC) at 26 High Street.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| 8 | 9 Indian Health Initiative Basketball Game <i>Payne Whitney Gymnasium</i> 8:00pm | 10 | 11 | 12 ANAY Dinner <i>Calhoun College</i> 6:00pm IHI Basketball PWG 7:00pm | 13 Blue Feather Valentine's Day Performance <i>Sterling Memorial Library</i> 4:00pm | 14 Honoring Wasing and Murdered Indigenous women with YSM and the Save Wyabi Project <i>MACC (26 High St.)</i> Teach-At 3:00-5:00 High 5:10-6:10 |
| 15 | 16 IHI Basketball PWG 8:00pm | 17 Phil Deloria Talk <i>Davenport Master's House</i> 4:00pm Reception <i>MACC (26 High St.)</i> 5:30pm-7:00pm | 18 "A Lab at the Top of the World" talk by Tess Lanzarotta Hosted by YGSNA <i>MACC (26 High St.)</i> | 19 ANAY Dinner <i>Calhoun College</i> 6:00pm IHI Basketball PWG 7:00pm | 20 | 21 ANAY Meeting <i>MACC (26 High St.)</i> 4:00pm |
| 22 | 23 IHI Basketball PWG 8:00pm | 24 "Neut Internment: A Story Between Censored and Silenced" talk by Holly Guise Hosted by YGSNA <i>MACC (26 High St.)</i> 11:30am-12:30am "Treaties, Borders, and Vectors: Mapping Colonial Expansion Online" talk by Claudio Saunt Hosted by YGSNA <i>Hall of Graduate Studies, Room 401</i> 4:00pm | 25 | 26 ANAY Dinner <i>Calhoun College</i> 6:00pm IHI Basketball PWG 7:00pm | 27 | 28 ANAY Midwinter Social <i>Afro-American Cultural Center (211 Park St.)</i> 4:00pm-8:00pm *Climate Change and Native Nations" talk by Elizabeth Kronk Warner Hosted by NALSA |

February

join our mailing list for more events
email christopher.cutter@yale.edu