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**NACC**  
NEWSLETTER  
**2017-18**

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# Words from the Director

Dear Community Members,

This year has been an amazing whirlwind! Not only did we celebrate the fifth Henry Roe Cloud conference in November, with Yale College alum Ashley Hemmers winning the Henry Roe Cloud Outstanding Alumni award and Jay Gitlin winning the Friend of the Community award, but ANAAY celebrated having the first Yale powwow after about a ten-year hiatus! It was an incredible event; ANAAY will continue the success of this first powwow by hosting another Fall 2019.

The community has been bustling all year! We have had visits from Native artists including Ben Pease, Clarence Cruz (co-sponsored by the Peabody), and Spiderwoman Theater, Melissa Zobel, Will Giles, and Shaandiin Tome (all through the Yale Indigenous Performing Arts Program). We have hosted Native scholars including Nick Reo (Dartmouth College), Sean Sherman (the Sioux Chef with the Sustainable Food Project), Kalani Souza (with co-sponsorship from FES), Stephanie Fielding (who served as the Presidential Lecturer in Linguistics this year and taught Mohegan classes), Nick Estes (Harvard University and

University of New Mexico), Lisa Kahaleole Hall and Dean Saranillo (co-sponsored by the AACC), Tink Tinker (with the Divinity School), and John Bathke, Yale College Alum and founder of the Association of Native Americans at Yale.

We had another year of successful language programming. At the NACC this year, we had community classes in Blackfeet, Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek/Mvskoke, Hawaiian, Lakota, and Mohawk. Additionally, the YIPAP Young Native American Storyteller's Festival brought 20 people from across Turtle Island to New Haven to perform in three nights of plays and performing arts. And we finished the weekend off with Professor Blackhawk's favorite thing—the New Haven Pizza Truck!

And as we bring our year to a close and think about all that we accomplished this semester, I cannot help but think about how much I will miss the seniors who are graduating. While they all have amazing opportunities they are all looking forward to, they have been a class with such amazing personalities, and they will be incredibly missed next year as we adjust to life at



The NACC without them. But, we do look forward to welcoming the amazing and talented first years who will arrive on campus in late August!

A big thank you to the editor of the newsletter, Haylee Kushi, for all of the hard work and dedication that she has put into producing these past two editions. Your hard work does not go unnoticed by your community. We appreciate you and everything you do for us, and have done for us, each and every day.

For those of you who have not been to the Native American Cultural Center, please stop by and say hello. We look forward to meeting you if we haven't already!

With love and best wishes to our graduates!

All best,  
Dean Fayard



❖❖❖ NACC Graduation Dinner



## Three Sisters Garden Reflections from Noah Schlager

Back in the spring of 2017 members of the Native American Cultural Center partnered with Abenaki seed keeper Liz Charlebois and Yale's Sustainable Food Program to plant two new gardens, one at the Yale farm and another next to the NACC, featuring plants and gardening traditions important to Native peoples. Over the Summer and into the Fall the gardens grew and became a prominent feature of the house. Central to the garden has been

the three sisters arrangement of corn, beans, and squash, which forms the center of Native agriculture on the East Coast. As this is an arrangement that would have been practiced by the traditional owners of New Haven, the Quinnipiac people, we wanted to call upon the shared traditions of neighboring Indigenous agriculturalists to grow crops as close to what the Quinnipiac would have been growing here as possible, while simultaneously acknowledging and remembering the people who gifted these seeds and recognizing the living and ever adaptive agricultural traditions of Native people on the East Coast and across the continent. Liz gifted us varieties of three sisters grown by Native peoples of the East Coast, including Rhode Island White Cap Corn, Buffalo Creek squash, Pigeon Pole Beans, and Rattlesnake Beans. In addition, we also grew Ground Cherries, White Sage, and Devil's Claw from seeds that I had saved from previous gardening projects. While not a traditional part of the Three Sisters, they are important plants either ceremonially or examples of other types of edible plants grown by Native peoples. While the core of the gardens should be built from relationships with the Tribes closest to us, there should also be space in the garden for the many traditions and seeds that Native students at Yale bring with them to this place. I have in particular had a vision of growing as many of the traditional medicines (such as Sage, Tobacco, Cedar, Mugwort, Sweetgrass) as possible so that they are available for students and guests. The gardens are not meant to be a diorama, but to revitalize our relationships and obligations to these plants and this place. They are about making space to practice the knowledges and values that are important.



# Assistant Director Laronal: Reflections



It has been an amazing two years here at the Native American Cultural Center under the leadership of Director Fayard and alongside our students. For those in this profession of service to students and families, we imagine certain personality traits that identify one class from the next. When I think about our students, I see our class of 2018 as our trailblazers. The ones who set the path for all things moving forward and played an integral part in moving the Cultural Centers in the direction of growth and expansion. Class of 2019, our Juniors, the movers, they're continuing the good work of pushing us forward and continuing to organize, plan and collaborate. As we move along to, Class of 2020, our sophomores, quiet and powerful, these are the ones who are building in a quiet but powerful way, inviting institutional changes to language requirements and seeking new opportunities in STEM and finally our Class of 2021, our first years, comical, awkward and getting the work done, they remind me of worker bees. Worker bees who laugh, play and work hard. The other half of our amazing community, our Graduate students, bring us together, they are our mentors and guides. The Indigenous Graduate Network, Native Law Student Association and Divinity School graduate students have truly made this house a home. And of course,

the thread that ties this community together are Professor Ned Blackhawk, Mary Kathryn Nagle, Reed Bobroff, Dinee Dorame and our alumni. The hard work of these amazing individuals are what has made our community whole.

In thinking about the array of activities this year and last year, we have spent our time embracing the opportunity to develop and strengthen our network of Native academics by holding speaking engagements that focused on cultural preservation, contemporary Native art and literature, traditional plants and medicines, policing, the strength of our Indigenous women and increasing visibility and awareness of Native Hawaiians here at Yale. Our students have also helped create a stronger presence on campus by re-establishing the Henry Roe Cloud Powwow and conference welcoming our alumni back to campus. We have grown two community gardens for the Native American Cultural Center in partnership with the Yale Sustainable Food Program. And among all of these happenings, we have continued to come together as a community for student led activities such as Baking and Bonding, Games Night, a trip out to Horse Island and Peer Liaison activities. Many of our dinners and gatherings have always brought us together, quite literally, in circle and in ceremony prior

to each meal. Perhaps, a gentle reminder of the things that matter most to our community.

These are the things that come together to create and sustain our community. They are the lifeblood of our community and how we all have chosen to come together. I am both honored and excited to continue to be a part of such a strong community. Looking forward and always remembering what came before.

Malama pono,

Kapiolani A. Laronal  
Assistant Director, Native  
American Cultural Center  
(NACC)

Stephanie Fielding, Mohegan Language Linguist and Dean Kelly Fayard, Director of the NACC





## The Return of the ANAAY Powwow

The Association of Native Americans at Yale revived the annual Powwow in the fall of 2017. Before 2017, the ANAAY Powwow was dormant for over 10 years. The event took place at Coxe Cage, which is Yale University's indoor track & field facility.

Over 200 students, alumni, faculty and community members were in attendance to see dancing, listen to the drum groups, shop with the vendors, eat food and to be a part of the community gathering. Following the successful return of the ANAAY Powwow, the Association looks forward to hosting the 7th Annual ANAAY Powwow in Fall 2018.



The 2018 ANAAY Powwow plans to take place on Sunday, October 7th, 2018 at Coxe Cage, 257 Derby Avenue in New Haven, CT.



Visit the powwow website at:  
[www.campuspress.yale.edu/anaaypowwow/](http://www.campuspress.yale.edu/anaaypowwow/)



# Lakǰól'iyapi in the NACC

I grew up without my language being spoken in my household at all. My grandparents on both sides of my family decided that we would be more successful in the white world if we left our Lakǰól Wiǰhóh'aŋ (Lakota way of life) behind. It wasn't until my sophomore year in high school that I became emotionally invested in Lakǰól'iyapi (Lakǰóta language). An elder said that I shouldn't be ashamed of not being able to speak Lakǰól'iyapi because the language was always with my spirit and always would be. She said that because I was born a Lakǰóta, the language was in my genes and in my spirit, and that all I had to do was remember the language, not learn it. Everytime we figure out something new about the language, it's as if we've excavated it, or unlocked a hidden special ability. We are never learning new knowledge, just recognizing our genetic memories that we've had with us since the Ziŋtkála Oyate (bird nation) gave us the Lakǰóta language. I have been on a journey with my best friend since that conversation to speak and remember my language every day. I am now the most fluent in my language in 4 generations. Every day I remember my language through group calls with my friends back home. However, I have not remembered everything about my language so I need to continue on my Lakǰól'iyapi journey. Though Yale University does not recognize my bilinguality in any real academic sense, the NACC offers a way for me to continue on my journey. I am appreciative of the NACC for giving me a place where I can remember and be proud of my language. When I speak my language here, I was told that my ancestors can hear my words all the way back home and that as long as they remember me, I will be okay here. When I speak Lakǰól'iyapi I am not lost. Ǧokǰála K'uŋ le miyé ǰha nakénula wáuŋ welo. Anpetu iyohi weksuya na unmaspe.

 By Bobby Pourier



## Yale's First Major Exhibition of Native North American Art

By Katie McCleary

Native North American art is an enduring yet unrecognized presence at Yale University. It has remained dispersed and often left to the periphery of engagement. Through public statements, discussions, and protests Native students and staff challenged the Yale University Art Gallery and the Yale Peabody Museum to prioritize accurate representations of Native peoples. Following a meeting between YUAG/YPM staff and Native students in January of 2017, the YUAG offered several undergraduate students the opportunity to develop its first major exhibition of Native North American art drawing from Yale collections. The exhibition will open in October of 2019,

co-curated by undergraduate students Joseph Zordan (Bad River Band and Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa), Leah Shrestinian, and Katherine McCleary (Little Shell Tribe of the Chippewa of Montana). The objects included in the exhibition provide insight into Yale's history, add overlooked elements to a history of American visual and material culture, and act as a touchstone at Yale for Native peoples. Through the exhibition the curators hope to challenge Yale's collecting history and bring contemporary Native stories into the gallery space. If you would like to learn more about the project or get involved please email: [katherine.mccleary@yale.edu](mailto:katherine.mccleary@yale.edu)

# Student Groups

The Association of Native Americans at Yale: Founded by John Bathke ('89), the Association of Native Americans at Yale (ANAAY) is a student-run political and cultural organization at Yale University designed to celebrate, educate, and appreciate Native cultures and histories. ANAAY is devoted to the establishment of a Native presence on Campus. The group works towards Indigenous cultural awareness of the Yale Community with a Native perspective through panels, speaker programs, and other events throughout the year, including our annual Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration, our powwow, and our participation in the Ivy Native Council.

Blue Feather Drum Group: Blue Feather, the powwow

drum group housed in the Native American Cultural Center, is Yale's first and only American Indian performance group. Blue Feather showcases both traditional and contemporary drum music, fostering intertribal exchange, creating a welcoming space for cultural participation, and making Native presence heard on and off campus.

Yale Sisters of All Nations is Yale's first Native women's and feminist organization. YSAN is dedicated to creating a safe, supportive space for Native women on campus through open discussion of gender and sexuality issues in Native communities, advocacy work, and networking/mentorship opportunities. It is a network open to all undergraduates, graduate students, and alumni. Every

year we host networking events for Native women in the undergraduate and graduate student communities and participate in the international campaign to raise awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women on February 14th.

The NACC also hosts three groups that have been on hiatus this year, because of how full our NACC calendar has been with events. The Indian Health Initiative focuses on Native physical and social wellness, the Yale Native American Arts Council works to bring Native art and artists to campus, and Yale's Chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society was founded to create community for Native students working in science, technology, engineering, and math.



## TRANSNATIONAL INDIGENEITY Celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day

Under the theme of Transnational Indigeneity the Association for Native Americans at Yale showed solidarity and collaboration with Indigenous relatives by co-planning an event with students at La Casa Cultural Center featuring Indigenous foods, music, and scholarship. UMass Dartmouth Professor Margarita Huayhua, a sociocultural anthropologist with a background in linguistic anthropology, translation, and Quechua language was the keynote speaker. This event was held on what others recognize as Columbus Day but instead celebrated strength, resilience, and the beauty of Indigenous communities for Indigenous Peoples' Day.



Indigenous Peoples' Day Rally



## SOVEREIGNTY by Mary Kathryn Nagle

Reflections from Logan Zelk

**O**n January 27, nearly a dozen members of the Native American Cultural Center community traveled with leaders of the Yale Indigenous Performing Arts Program to Washington, D.C., for a showing of *Sovereignty* at Arena Stage. Written by YIPAP Executive Director Mary Kathryn Nagle, the play follows lawyer, Sarah Ridge Polson, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation

who moves back to Oklahoma to become a lawyer for her nation.

Those who attended the production relayed their excitement at traveling to see the production. Students commented on the play being the first time they had seen such a large Native cast telling Native stories on stage. They also discussed the ways that it empowered them and made them

feel proud of their own nations. Greg Buzzard (YLS '18) summed up the group's thoughts: "as a play that was about the intertwined histories of Cherokee sovereignty and American legal systems, I felt like it uniquely spoke to me...It's the first time that I've felt so represented in a theatrical performance, which was a really moving experience for me. It reminded me of the reason that it's important to

have Indian lawyers-the reason that I went to law school-and how important tribal sovereignty is to the life of Indian Country. I particularly loved the fact that it's being staged in DC. I hope that some of the audience members include government workers who will be reminded about their role in upholding the government-to-government relationships between the United States and tribal nations."

## Henry Roe Cloud Conference 2017

The Association of Native Americans at Yale hosts the Henry Roe Cloud Conference every three years to bring together Native students, faculty, and community members. The conference featured several speakers, a panel and a keynote address. In addition, the student organization honored Ashley Hemmers as the distinguished alumnus and Jay Gitlin as the "Friend of the Community" during a brief

awards ceremony and dinner at the Quinnipiack Club,

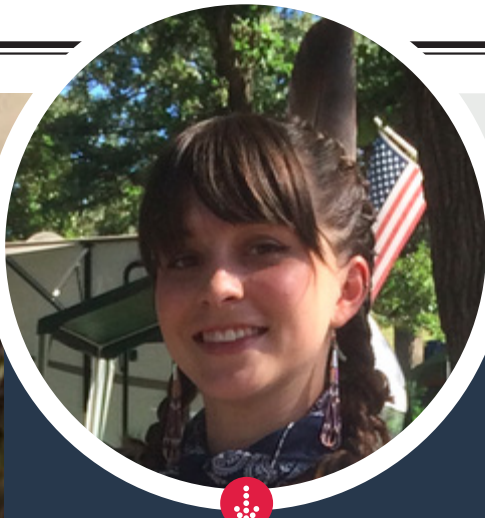
The day included presentations on special collections at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, a discussion with Sam Deloria '64 (Hunkpapa Lakota) at Pierson College, a showing of the film "This Is Who I Am" by Calvin Hartwig and series of talks on the theme of keeping indigenous languages alive.



 Henry Roe Cloud Conference Speakers



## Interviews with SENIOR HOUSE STAFF



Woesha Hampson-Medina  
(Winnebago, Chippewa)

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***My favorite house staff memory is definitely working on baking and bonding. It was fun showing people how to make pretzels and other things but it was most enjoyable when new people stopped by for a sweet treat***

”



Sonora Taffa  
(Quechan)

**W**hat's your favorite house staff memory?

My favorite house staff memory is definitely working on baking and bonding. It was fun showing people how to make pretzels and other things but it was most enjoyable when new people stopped by for a sweet treat.

- Woesha Hampson-Medina (Winnebago, Chippewa)

One Sunday night my coworker Ashton and I decided it was time to organize the crafts center once and for all. So, we used the NACC label maker, which just feels like an amazing and magical tool. We labeled all the different categories of crafts and got into a great flow. I'm not entirely sure why, but it was the most pleasant way to spend a Sunday night.

- Sonora Taffa (Quechan)

“House staff makes the house feel like a home!”

*A week in the life of a house staff member:*

A week in the life of an NACC house staff member always involves a good 'ol house staff meeting. We give each other some compliments and talk about the coming events. While on staff we make sure the house runs smoothly; we ensure that the house is not on fire and that dishes get done.

There's always room for a fun activity or a spontaneous dish being cooked.

- Woesha

My only shift is on Sunday-- so it kind of rounds out my week, and carries me into the next. I usually catch up with whoever is in the house, recenter my thoughts, and reflect on what I've done and have to do. Sometimes doing dishes is a great break from essay writing!

- Sonora

*An important house staff contribution to the NACC community:*

House staff is what keeps the house running both behind the scenes and center stage. It helps shape the community by putting on events and bringing people together. We also are a core presence at the house which is always welcoming when new people come to the house.

- Woesha

House staff makes the house feel like a home! Sometimes that means cleaning and making the space look beautiful. Other times that means organizing and running community events. My personal favorites are the holiday parties, especially the Halloween party! It's great to see everyone in the same place at once, celebrating and enjoying each other's company.

- Sonora

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***It's great to see everyone in the same place at once, celebrating and enjoying each other's company***

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