

Welcome

to the



s n s
h y g
o a e
o : :
t w n
d e o
a h a
c k l
h w o
í e h
i , a

o k w h
s w i a
i e n l
y ' y á ' p o
o á t ' s h :
h é é h : y
c i k o n g

Yale

Native American Cultural Center

letter from our dean

Dear Future Student:

Hesci! I hope that this letter finds you well. When I arrived on Yale's campus in July 2015, our resident Native faculty member, Dr. Ned Blackhawk, told me that the Native community at Yale is a special place. In the time that I have been here as Assistant Dean of Yale College and Director of the Native American Cultural Center, I have come to understand more about what Dr. Blackhawk meant. The Native community at Yale is a unique and amazing place to be, and another layer of awesome and amazing work with students unfolds everyday.

A little about my background: I am from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in Alabama. I went to undergrad at Duke, grad school (to get a Ph.D. in Anthropology) at the University of Michigan, and then taught anthropology at Bowdoin College for a few years before arriving here at Yale. I love being around the energy and the enthusiasm that students at the NACC have; their spirit keeps me young!

I hope that this booklet gives you a snapshot of what it might be like to be a member of our community. Along with all of the resident student groups listed in this booklet, the new programs coming out of the NACC, like the Native American Languages Program and the Yale Indigenous Performing Arts Program, have been monumental in bringing our community together for more culturally inclusive activities. The Yale Group for the Study of Native America, run by Dr. Blackhawk, brings in renowned Native scholars to discuss important issues in Native studies. Additionally, our Native graduate students are involved in the Indigenous Graduate Network as well as the Native American Law Students Association. Mentorship here happens with faculty, graduate and professional students, as well as with older undergraduate students. Our students are involved with many other activities across campus. No matter what your interest, chances are there is someone else at the NACC who can help get you connected.

Our community is very open and inclusive. Whether you are an urban Indian who grew up going to powwows, an Alaskan native who loves a good potlatch, grew up on a reservation or pueblo or rancheria, grew up in a place where the majority of folks were non-native, or hail from the Pacific Islands, the NACC is here for you. Whether you speak your language fluently, are trying to learn your language, or are not sure what language your ancestors spoke, the NACC is here for you. And whether you want to spend all of your time outside of class in the NACC, swing by for a quick meal during a community dinner, attend only student meetings at the NACC, or any combination of the above, the NACC is here when you need it.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. If you'd like to speak to a student, you can find the information for our peer liaisons on the NACC website. Or, email me and I can pass your email along to one of our amazing peer liaisons.

We look forward to hearing from you, and hopefully meeting you, soon.

Mvto,



Kelly Fayard

Assistant Dean, Yale College

Director, Native American Cultural Center



our community

Our community comes from all over Turtle Island and beyond, and although some of us are very far from our families and tribal communities, many of us have found a home in the NACC.

“Upon arriving to Yale, with the continental United States separating me from my home and family in Seattle, I was feeling pretty alone. The NACC became my home away from home and I’ve been involved since then. It’s a special thing to be able to access and celebrate your culture here at school.” - Nicota Stevenson (‘17)



“The NACC is a space where our tight-knit Native community can come together and support each other, making a family through organizations, events, and hangouts.” -Tanner Allread (‘16)

support

academics

The NACC supports its students academically by providing a quiet and comfortable place to work, computers with the Adobe Suite to use, a printer for those last minutes papers, and a community of study buddies and upperclassman mentors. When midterms and finals come around, the NACC helps students with their exams and papers by hiring writing tutors, stocking the house with extra snacks and coffee, and hosting relaxing study breaks.

native studies

The NACC also houses a few Native studies classes, this year we offered Native American and Indigenous Literatures, Writing Tribal Histories, Indigenous Feminisms, Introduction to Native American Art, discussion sections for Introduction to American Indian History, and Native language study classes. American Indian Law and Policy and Indians in the Spanish Borderlands are taught elsewhere on campus.

resources

native american languages program

In collaboration with the Center for Language Study, the NACC enables students to learn their Native languages. This year the NACC offers group classes in Choctaw, Cherokee, and Mohawk as well as the one-on-one study of Klallam, Salish, Hawaiian, and Navajo.

student jobs

peer liaisons

The Yale College Dean's Office hires six or seven upperclassmen Native students to act as mentors for Native freshmen. The peer liaisons are here to give you advice about anything from Native identity to academics to navigating your way through social circles at Yale.



Head PL Rose Bear Don't Walk spends time with Native freshman, Amy Nichols.

house staff

The House Managers and First Year Liaisons are Native students hired by the NACC to make sure that the house remains active, fun, and clean. The job entails planning events, giving tours of the house, and the occasional dishwashing. Freshman liaisons are first year students who also work to encourage freshmen to enter, feel comfortable, and remain involved in our community.

yale indigenous performing arts program



Four Student Coordinators help program director Mary Kathryn Nagle with performing arts projects that allow indigenous peoples to tell their own histories at Yale, with the help of Professor Blackhawk. Student Coordinators have acted in various staged readings, helped bring Native playwrights from all over Native America to Yale, and will act in the winning play from YIPAP's Native youth playwriting contest. for More information at yipap.yale.edu.



student organizations

The NACC houses six undergraduate student organizations which are completely student run. Feel free to contact group leaders if you're interested!

association of native americans at yale



Yale's central and oldest Native student organization (founded in 1989), ANAAY seeks to unite the community under the goal of increasing the Native presence on campus through education, advocacy, and cultural expression.

Contact: Katie McCleary at katherine.mccleary@yale.edu

sisters of all nations

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, networking/mentorship opportunities, and providing a space for Native women on campus to bond. Contact: Autumn Shone at autumn.shone@yale.edu



blue feather drum group



Blue Feather 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: Kodi Alvord at christopher.alvord@yale.edu.

indian health initiative

The Yale Indian Health Initiative (IHI) is the first Yale group to focus on the holistic wellness of the native community. This group was created in 2014 to bring more opportunities and resources to increase knowledge of health and wellness for individuals and the community. Reflected in its mission statement, IHI uses our four coordinated sectors of health, mental, spiritual, emotional and physical, to promote a healthy lifestyle and overall wellness through advocacy and events. Contact: Rose Bear Don't Walk at mitchell.beardontwalk@yale.edu



yale native american arts council



YNAAC is designed to educate, promote, and create Native American art. Events in the past have included movie screenings, beading nights, and a talk about the dangers of appropriating Native cultures.

Contact: Emily Van Alst at emily.vanalst@yale.edu

american indian 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: Ashton Megli at ashton.megli@yale.edu

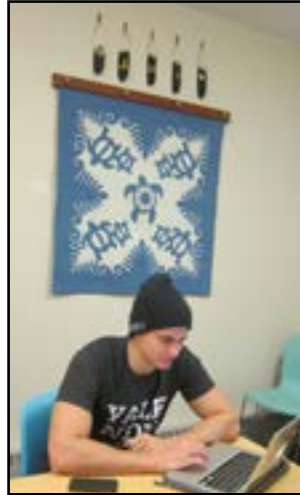


the house

“Every time I enter the House, I’m so happy with what I see: people cooking and talking in the kitchen, music playing, teapot whistling, comfy couches to nap on, friends playing video games upstairs, art by Native artists hanging on the walls...The NACC makes me feel like I have a little piece of home here in New Haven.”

- Lindsey Hogg ('17)

1st floor



Above, left: We be in the **kitchen** cookin pies #TrapQueen

Above, middle and right: Nicota studies in the **conference room** after ANAAY finishes their weekly planning meeting.

2nd floor



Above, left: Everyone gets cozy on the **living room** couches at the movie screening for *Rhymes for Young Ghouls*.

Above, right: The remnants of time spent in the **craft nook** used for beading, painting, sign- making, coloring, and anything else you can imagine.

Right: A long night of studying in the **computer room**: complete with two Macs geared with the Microsoft Suite, Adobe Suite, and a printer for students to use.





Above: Kodi Alvord ('17) reads in the NACC **library**, the designated quiet reading space in the house, which is watched over by the portrait of Henry Roe Cloud. He was the first Native student to attend Yale.



3rd floor

A spacious single room that functions as Blue Feather rehearsal space, an art gallery, a yoga studio and many other things, the third floor of the NACC is quirky and fun, like us.

Left, top: Blue Feather Drum Group rehearsal
Left, bottom: Photography and sculptures by our own David Rico ('16) and Pablo Barrera (graduate student in art history).

Below: The Indian Health Initiative members strike their favorite yoga poses.



a year at the nacc

Hallmark annual events and weekly fun activities



On **indigenous peoples' day** the Association of Native Americans at Yale (ANAAY) plans events for the NACC community in early October. We reject Columbus Day in honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day. We celebrate the resilience and beauty of Native peoples with a day of fun, food, speeches, and music. ANAAY also collaborates with Native student organizations at other colleges for the Ivy Native Conference, where we visit other Ivy League campuses for a weekend to talk about Native issues and network.

ANAAY also plans a **social** or some years a **powwow**: dancers, drums, and delectable Indian tacos. Above, left to right: Leanne Motylenski (Mohawk, '16) and Katie McCleary (Crow, '18) on IPD ; Our community holding up signs with messages that empower Native peoples on the New Haven Green on IPD ; the potato dance at ANAAY's 2015 Midwinter Social.



Above, left: sitting around the Christmas tree in preparation for the treacherous gift swap game (White Elephant), a yearly tradition at the **christmas party**.

Above, right: Members of our NACC community enjoying Indian Tacos in the NACC parking lot at the annual **welcome back bbq**.

Right: The Yale Sisters of All Nations brings awareness to Yale's campus by holding a **vigil for missing and murdered indigenous women** on February 14th, a practice originating in Canada.

*Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women:
A Valentine's Day Trash-Tn*





Weekly events at the NACC include meetings for all of the student groups to plan, organize, and bond, along with **ihi sports** and **baking and bonding**.

What sports we play and what goods we bake often change because anyone can make suggestions. IHI has done group runs, basketball, lacrosse, group workouts, and yoga.

Above, left: IHI runs the annual New Haven Marathon together.

Above, right: Justin Riner ('16) and Karleh Wilson ('16) kick-off an IHI basketball game

Right: Charelle Brown ('19), Kodi Alvord ('17), Katie McCleary ('18), and Dinee Dorame ('15) rush to get a few of Charelle's delicious chocolate chip cookies.



The NACC community ends our year together by celebrating the graduating seniors at the **senior dinner**.

We dress up and travel to the Mohegan Sun Casino, where we gift the seniors with NACC stoles, eat, and share our favorite stories about the senior class.

Above, left: Dr. Chris Cutter and Professor Ned Blackhawk celebrating the class of 2015 at Mohegan Sun.

Above, right: A picture of a senior superlative award - we come to learn each other's quirks over four years.



outside the nacc

“As a member of the NACC community, I am not perceived solely as a Native student on campus. The NACC supports the expression of my identity through my academic and extracurriculars and encourages me to grow, not just as a Native person, but as a community member, a professional, and student.” -Reed Bobroff ('16)



Above: Sebi Medina-Tayac ('16)(middle) with his fraternity brothers from La Unidad Latina.

Right: Kyle Ranieri ('18)(left) performing in a ballet show.



Above, left: Hanna Sheridan ('18) (middle) with her sorority sisters from APHI.

Above, right: Record-breaker in throwing Karléh Wilson ('16) (third from the left) with track stars from other universities after a meet.



Left: Reed Bobroff, featured on HBO's "Brave New Voices" and *The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop* performing on stage.



Above, left: Andrea Wiglesworth ('17) choreographs for Yale's Danceworks.
 Above, right: Katie McCleary co-captains women's club basketball.
 Left: Nicota Stevenson ('17) is on Yale's varsity rugby team.
 Below, left: David Rico performs as a part of ¡Oye! Spoken Word, Yale's first and only Latino spoken word group.
 Below, right: Rose Bear Don't Walk ('16) enjoys martial arts like Muay Thai and Brazillian Jiu Jitsu during her free time.

Aside from leading student organizations and working student jobs within the NACC, Native students also immerse themselves in other spaces at Yale and New Haven. Other activities that members of the NACC community are involved in include the Yale Political Union, BUX Christian fraternity, Unite Against Sexual Assault Yale, Yale College Council, the Yale Black Women's Coalition, and local activism with groups like Unidad Latina en Accion in New Haven.



why we love the nacc



“We rise together to overcome the very real challenges that face students of all different racial backgrounds at any college in America.” - Andy DeGuglielmo ('18)



“The NACC has been and will continue to be my Yale family that shaped my Yale experience.” -Vanessa Noelte ('16)



[The Yale Sisters of All Nations] are my best friends and the greatest people you'll ever meet.” - Ashton Megli ('18) (above)



“It's great to have so many avenues of support as Native students.” -Naivasha Harris ('16) (right)



“I am able to take my Native language through the NACC. I have more opportunity to learn about my cultural heritage through the NACC.”
-Alanna Pyke ('19)



letter from a native student at yale

While Yale is a place full of resources and incredible people, many spaces here can be alienating and difficult, especially for Native students. You've left your community for the first time. Culture shock is real. Sometimes people ask weird questions like, "do you live in a tipi?" or "how much Native American are you?" This is all on top of the regular stresses of transitioning into college: missing your family, changing your lifestyle, and becoming increasingly independent. But that is what the Cultural Centers are for. While the broader Yale institution and community often didn't understand what it was like to be a Native student, in all its complexities and difficulties, I did end up finding a community that was supportive, diverse, and engaging – the Yale Native American Cultural Center.

It's not perfect. Like any small community or family, we disagree about many things and we feel overwhelmed with responsibility. Also like any small community, we care deeply. We care about Native issues, we care about Native culture, we care about each other. The Native American Cultural Center (NACC)

community comes with a house diligently stocked with snacks, the support of the superhero-like Dean and other adults invested in Native students, and peers that bond over anything they find in common: artistic interests to political activism to a desire to sit on the couch and eat potato chips after a long day of classes.

Whether you decide to attend Yale or another peer institution, you will find that in the rush to answer emails and attend meetings and finish problem sets and write papers, time becomes your scarcest and most valuable resource. Most students here find communities to spend time with: musical groups, political organizations, cultural centers, etc. You need friends that will listen to your late-night ramblings and you want to find your place in the broader Yale community. I'm not saying that to survive Yale you must spend all of your time at the NACC. Some Native students find community here and some find community elsewhere. My point is to assure you that the NACC will be here should you need or want it.



Like Yale, the NACC is constantly improving and growing because of its students, who have varying levels and types of involvement in the house. We would love for you to be part of this growing process, as every member in this community provides us with a new perspective and a unique personality. In the words of an upperclassman that expressed these very sentiments to me early in my freshman year, "Give to the NACC and the NACC will give back to you."

Welcome to the Yale Native American Cultural Center
- Haylee Kushi ('18)

Visit us in person or online!
26 High St., New Haven, CT 06520
(ancestral homelands of the Quinnipiac people)
our website: nacc.yalecollege.yale.edu
our social media: facebook.com/YaleNACC or instagram.com/yalenacc