

MISSION:

The Institute of American Indian Studies conducts research and policy development on tribal governance and issues in contemporary American Indian society. The Institute also develops, coordinates and funds interdisciplinary research projects, sustains relations with tribes and tribal colleges, advises on tribal relations and culture, issues publications, administers several endowments supportive of Native American education and student life, and hosts lectures and conferences on topical Native American questions.

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The University of South Dakota

INSTITUTE OF
AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

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A YEAR IN REVIEW: 2008

The past two years have seen much transition in the Institute of American Indian Studies and the Department of American Indian Studies. In 2007, the Department and its chair supervised both the Institute and the Oral History Center. These responsibilities were temporarily assigned to Associate Dean Kurt Hackemer in the College of Arts & Sciences, who engaged the services of Charles Trimble as Director of the Institute on an interim basis while Dr. Hackemer continued to direct the Department and the South Dakota Oral History Center.

The division of responsibilities was formalized in January 2008 with the Institute of American Indian Studies pursuing a research and policy-based mission under a new Director, Professor Patrice Kunesh from the USD School of Law. Organizationally, the Institute moved to the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. In the spring, Dr. Edward Valandra was appointed the Chair of the Department of American Indian Studies. In addition to overseeing the department's academic program, Dr. Valandra will oversee the Oral History Center within the College of Arts & Science. With deep roots in Indian affairs and academics, both Professor Kunesh and Dr. Valandra continue to work in close concert with each other.



Professor Kunesh, who is of Standing Rock Sioux Hunkpapa Lakota descent, joined the faculty of USD Law in 2005, with teaching responsibilities in the areas of federal Indian law (civil and criminal jurisdiction, gaming and economic development, natural resources law), Children & the Law, Legislation, Property, and Alternative Dispute Resolution. Upon receiving her juris doctorate from the University of

Colorado School of Law in 1989, Professor Kunesh began her legal career at the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) as a Skadden Public Interest Fellow, representing American Indian tribes throughout the country. She later became in-house counsel to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe of Connecticut, working in the areas of child welfare, tribal law and governance development.

Professor Kunesh continues this focus in her scholarship. Her recent work includes law review articles dealing with cross-border jurisdictional issues, the continuing relevance of traditional and cultural tribal jurisprudence in modern society, and a hard look at the fragility of Indian child welfare in South Dakota.



Dr. Edward C. Valandra, Ph.D., is Sicangu Lakota, born and raised on the Rosebud Reservation. He is an Associate Professor of American Indian Studies and chair of the Department of

American Indian Studies. He received his B.A. from Minnesota State University in Mankato, followed by a M.A. in Political Science from the University of Colorado in Boulder, and a Ph.D. in American Studies from the State University of New York in Buffalo. He has taught at the University of California in Davis and Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dr. Valandra's current research interests focus on the national revitalization of the Oceti Sakowin Oyate (People of Seven Fires). His book, *Not Without Our Consent: Lakota Resistance to Termination, 1950–1959*, published by the University of Illinois Press in 2006, chronicles the Oceti Sakowin Oyate successful political, legal and cultural resistance to the assertion of state jurisdiction over Indian



FORMER INSTITUTE DIRECTOR CHUCK TRIMBLE HONORED AT USD WINTER COMMENCEMENT

Charles “Chuck” Trimble, who served as interim director of the Institute of American Indian Studies in 2007, was honored by the University of South Dakota during 2008 Winter Commencement ceremonies in December. Chuck was the keynote speaker for the event and was presented with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree for his distinguished record of public service.

Chuck, an Oglala Lakota, was born and grew up in the village of Wanblee on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. He received his elementary education at the Holy Rosary Mission Indian School and graduated from Red Cloud Indian School in Pine Ridge. He then received a B.F.A. degree from the University of South Dakota in 1957. Following service in the U.S. Army, Chuck continued his studies in journalism at the University of Colorado.

After founding the American Indian Press Association in 1970, Chuck served as the executive director of the National Congress of American Indians in Washington, D.C from 1972 to 1978. In his tenure at NCAI, he is generally credited with having effectively lobbied for enactment of the Indian Financing Act, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, the Indian Self Determination Act, the Indian Religious Freedom Act, the Indian Child Welfare Act, and an unprecedented return of land to Indian tribes.

Chuck has maintained his interest and work in Indian affairs. He is president of the Charles Trimble Company, which fosters economic development on American Indian reservations, and president of the Red Willow Institute, a non-profit corporation he founded to provide technical and management assistance to Native American non-profit organizations.

Chuck has received many honors for his lifelong work and contributions to American Indian affairs. He received the 1999 USD Alumni Achievement Award, special recognition in 2003 for donating his personal library to USD, the Nebraska Arts Council’s 2006 Heritage Award, which recognizes an individual who exemplifies authenticity and excellence within a cultural tradition, the 2007 Sower Award by the Nebraska Humanities Council, and most recently, the 2008 Martin Luther King, Jr. award presented in the Nebraska Capital Rotunda. Chuck has spent a lifetime promoting Great Plains history to create bridges between Native and non-Native residents of this region. For these and many other contributions, Chuck received Honorary Doctorate degrees from Creighton University and Wayne State College. Chuck lives in Omaha, Nebraska, with his wife Anne.

Read an excerpt from Trimble’s commencement speech on page 6.



Photo by South Dakota Tourism.

LAKOTA – FROM HEART AND HEARTH

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| iktomi – spider | tiyospaye - family group |
| Maka – Earth | unci – grandmother |
| sapa – black | wacipi – dance |
| tatanka – buffalo | waste – good |

Lakota, the largest of the three languages of the Lakota people, represents one of the most prominent American Indian speech communities left in the United States, with approximately 8,000–9,000 speakers living mostly in northern plains states of North and South Dakota. Lakota Language at USD is taught by professor and traditional storyteller Jerome Kills Small.



ULLYOT SCHOLARS PREPARE TO EXCEL AT USD

Three new students entered the University of South Dakota as Freshman Ullyot Scholars this year, recipients of one of the most prestigious freshman scholarships awarded by USD. The scholarship is overseen by the Institute of American Indian Studies. Sasheen Thin Elk Topa, Brian Drapeaux, and Lisa Nelson are the latest in a long line of high-achieving American Indian students to receive the award. All of the Ullyot Scholars were honored at reception in October, which was attended by a variety of faculty and students.

The Ullyot Scholarship is supported by the Ullyot Lakota Education Endowment and is administered by the Institute of American Indian Studies at The University of South Dakota. The Ullyot Scholarship recognizes American Indian senior high school students who have demonstrated strong academic potential and a commitment to their communities.

The Ullyot Scholarship would not have been possible without the generosity of two very special people. In February 1993, Dr. Glenn E. and Barbara R. Ullyot established an endowed scholarship fund within the USD Foundation to be used to benefit undergraduate students, the largest one-time gift in USD's history. After meeting with officials from the USD Institute of American Indian Studies, the Ullyots decided to double their endowment, creating the largest scholarship endowment for Native American students in the state of the South Dakota.

After graduating from Clark High School, Dr. Ullyot began his higher education at USD in 1927, where he spent two years as an undergraduate. Dr. Ullyot later went on to receive his bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Minnesota and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. After a career as an eminent medical research chemist at what is now Glaxo Smith Kline, Ullyot began to wind back to his Midwest roots following retirement in 1975. Having learned firsthand the value and fruits of an advanced education, he wished to encourage and support high school graduates from South Dakota to pursue their dreams at the University. Dr. Ullyot died in 2002, but his wife Barbara continues his legacy, taking a keen interest in the accomplishments of Ullyot scholars.

Over the years, the Ullyot Scholarship has supported many American Indian students at USD, in their undergraduate and graduate studies. In 2008, the Ullyot Scholarship directed its support on incoming freshman students. Incoming freshman interested in applying for the Ullyot scholarship should visit <http://www.usd.edu/iais/ullyot.cfm>.

A Year in Review, continued from page 1

people on reservations in South Dakota, the precursor to ultimate termination. Dr. Valandra currently is working on a follow-up book, entitled *The 1964 Plebiscite: A Nation Is Coming*. He is a member of the Native Research and Advocacy Collaborative.

Several longtime staff continue to support the mission of both the Institute and the Department. Margaret (Meg) Quintal, Program Assistant, has faithfully served the Institute and subsequently the Department for more than seventeen years. Although the Institute moved into her old office in Dakota Hall 17, Meg maintains the programs' institutional memory and administration from her new office in Dakota Hall 12.

Charles E. Trimble, who served as interim director in 2007, continues to advise the Institute of American Indian Studies as Assistant Director. In a great tribute to Mr. Trimble's contribution to USD, Mr. Trimble was conferred an honorary doctorate at USD's December 2008 graduation, where he delivered the commencement speech. See more on Honoring Chuck Trimble on page 2.

Through the generosity of the Ullyot Lakota Education Endowment, the Institute has been able to fund two Graduate Assistants this year. Kelsey Collier-Wise, a third year law student, served as Institute GA for the fall semester. Sarah Williamson, also a third year law student, joined the Institute in January.

The Future: Together, Professor Kunesh and Mr. Trimble have developed The Road Map for the Future of the Institute of American Indian Studies, a plan that restores the Institute to its original mission as a center dedicated to research and study of American Indian history and culture, strengthening relationships with tribal governments and colleges, promotion of scholarly publications, and support of Indian educational opportunities. Learn more about The Roadmap on page 7.





SHERMAN ALEXIE'S THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN

Review by Laura M. Furlan, Assistant Professor, English, The University of South Dakota

Sherman Alexie fans were in for a treat when last year

Alexie published two new books: *Flight*, a short novel about a time-traveling mixed-blood foster child, and *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, his first young adult novel that has won a number of awards, including a 2007 National Book Award for Young People's Literature and the 2008 American Indian Library Association American Indian Youth Literature Award.

Published by Little, Brown and with illustrations by Ellen Forney, *The Absolutely True Diary* tells the story of Arnold Spirit, Jr. (Junior for short), a teen-aged boy growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation in Wellpinit, Wash.: "located approximately one million miles north of Important and two billion miles west of Happy." Junior endures many hardships on the rez: for one, he was born hydrocephalic and he is often teased for his over-sized head (with nicknames like "Orbit" and "Globe" and "Hydro Head"). His family is poor and his parents are alcoholics. Junior turns to cartooning as a means of coping. He draws "because words are too limited" and because he thinks it might be his "only real chance to escape the reservation." He does leave the reservation to attend

the all white high school in Reardan after finding his mother's maiden name in a geometry textbook in the rez school. At Reardan High, he is the only Indian—if you don't count the mascot. Here Junior excels at basketball, befriends Gordy, a smart white boy who teaches him to love books, and falls in love with Penelope, an anorexic white girl who has a racist father. Most days Junior isn't sure how he will get to school—22 miles away from the reservation. Back on the rez, his best friend Rowdy refuses to speak to him, his father's best friend is shot and killed, he loses his grandmother, and his older sister dies in a trailer fire in Montana. The only way to survive all of this tragedy, especially in Alexie's world, is to turn to humor, which in this book one finds in both the text and the cartoons. For example, there's a drawing of Ted, a white guy who shows up for Junior's grandmother's funeral. Ted wears a Pendleton jacket, fringed buckskin pants and U.S. Calvary boots ("worn by Kevin Costner in *Dances with Wolves*"). In a cartoon speech bubble, Ted says, "I'm not Indian...but I feel Indian in my bones."

In the novel, Alexie covers the usual young adult themes—difference, dating, school, sexuality and friends hip—in addition to issues particular to a young Spokane boy. The journey to manhood has a warrior

twist; the dating puzzle is exacerbated by prejudice. Junior wonders if there is hope on the reservation. The story is largely autobiographical, as Alexie has admitted in the numerous interviews that accompanied the release of this book. In real life, however, Alexie turned to writing—not drawing—to express his dissatisfaction with life on the reservation. At the end of the novel, Alexie seems to be wrestling with his own decision to leave his rez and tribe. He writes, "I hoped and prayed that they would someday forgive me for leaving them. I hoped and prayed that I would someday forgive myself for leaving them."

Alexie's previous works include *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* (1993), *Reservation Blues* (1995), *Indian Killer* (1996), *Ten Little Indians* (2000), screenplays for the films *Smoke Signals* (1998) and *The Business of Fancydancing* (2003), which he also directed, and numerous collections of poetry: *Dangerous Astronomy* (2005), *One Stick Song* (2000), *The Man Who Loves Salmon* (1998), *The Summer of Black Widows* (1996), *Water Flowing Home* (1996), *Seven Mourning Songs for the Cedar Flute I Have Yet to Learn to Play* (1995), *First Indian on the Moon* (1993), *Old Shirts and New Skins* (1993), *I Would Steal Horses* (1993), and *The Business of Fancydancing* (1991).

18TH ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN ESSAY COMPETITION

First Place: \$1,000
Second Place: \$750
Third Place: \$500

Open to all USD freshman, sophomore and junior students.

Deadline: March 16, 2009 at 5 p.m.

Essay Winners will be announced at the Annual Native American Spring Wacipi on March 28th and 29th!

TOPIC: The essay should address a current concern at the national or tribal level regarding any aspect of the following issue:

"The social, political, and/or economic impact of higher education on federal-tribal relations."

WORD LIMIT: Essays must be between 500 and 750 words.

FORMAT: Essays must be typed in 12-point font and double spaced. You must include citation to any authorities used in the essay.

ORIGINALITY: Essays must be the original work of the student.

SUBMISSION: Completed essays must be accompanied by a cover page and submitted electronically to the Institute of American Indian Studies at iais@usd.edu. The submission form is available online under the "Essay" link at the Institute's Web page: www.usd.edu/iais.

EVALUATION CRITERIA: Essays are evaluated anonymously by a diverse committee of USD faculty on the elements of clarity, organization, and grammar.

THE INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

NEWS REPORTS: A SHORT HISTORY

In 1955, not long after its inception, the Institute of American Indian Studies launched a monthly News Report in 1955 with the purpose of informing the University of South Dakota and the American Indian community in South Dakota about important events taking place in Indian Country. Spanning over twenty years, the News Reports highlighted both the Institute and USD's involvement in Indian affairs at all levels of government, tribal, state and national, certainly vis-à-vis tribal-state relations and importantly in federal Indian policy.

The breadth and depth of historical information in the News Reports is astounding. The Institute reported continuously on the extensive political battle over the state's attempt to assert civil and criminal jurisdiction on reservations in the 1950s and 1960s during the Termination Era of federal Indian policy. It also covered the first lawsuits in South Dakota filed on behalf of individual American Indians on the grounds of racial discrimination, including an early case of employment discrimination. On the national scene, the



News Reports recounted significant events pertaining to the nation as a whole such as the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

Almost every department at USD has contributed to the Institute's News Report, from poetry to research reports on global indigenous issues. Thus, the News Reports are an important chronological history of the work and accomplishments of the Institute of American Indian Studies and of USD over the past 50 years. The Institute's service to tribal governments and in state

and national policymaking has advanced the profile of the nine South Dakota Indian tribes and has encouraged a deeper and richer understanding of their extraordinary history, remarkable culture and sustained legal authority.

With this News Report, the Institute of American Indian Studies revives its reporting on the work and impact of the Institute and USD in South Dakota and beyond. The News Reports are accessible online at <http://www.usd.edu/iais/NewsReports/Contents.cfm>.

Brittainy Cortilet served as an intern at the Institute of American Indian Studies as part of her AmeriCorps VISTA year of service. A 2007 graduate of Wells College (Aurora, NY) with a Major in Public Affairs: Ethics, Government and Public Policy, and a minor in First Nations Indigenous Studies, Brittainy's involvement with the Institute stemmed both from an academic and personal interest in federal Indian law and a desire to continue learning by working in the field of Indigenous Studies.

USD CONTRIBUTES TO REPORT ASSESSING FINANCIAL EDUCATION CONCERNS AMONG NATIVE YOUTH

A recent study conducted by Dr. William Anderson of the USD Government Research Bureau, in cooperation with First Nations Oweesta Corporation (Oweesta) out of Rapid City, S.D., the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy and the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, indicated that a majority of Native students are deficient in developing financial skills.

In a recently released report that examined the financial skills of Native youths at high schools with large Native populations in South Dakota, Montana and New Mexico, 93 percent of Native students surveyed received a failing score. They also scored

low in all five financial literacy categories: income, money management, spending, savings and credit. The report was based on research for a biennial survey conducted by Jump\$tart and sponsored by Merrill Lynch.

The report, which was supported by a grant from the National Council on Economic Education, included collaboration from Junior Achievement of New Mexico, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis-Helena Branch and the Hutchinson County Extension Service of South Dakota. It suggested strategies for changing economical education opportunities for Native youths such as the placement of culturally competent curricula in Native-serving

schools, educating parents and school officials about the value of financial education, significant links between financial education and Native students' goals, and increasing opportunities for Native youths to manage money as well as taking responsibility for their financial decisions.

Oweesta and its partners, including The University of South Dakota Government Research Bureau, have received a follow up grant from NCEE to study obstacles faced in promoting financial education in Native communities. More information and a copy of the 2008 report is available online at <http://www.oweesta.org/youthreport2009>.



AN EXCERPT FROM CHARLES TRIMBLE'S COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS, THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA *December 13, 2008*

I do not recall who gave the commencement address when I received my B.F.A. degree here in Jan. 1957, over in Slagle Auditorium. Nor do I remember anything that the honored orator said. It was not that the commencement speaker was not interesting or that he did not have some profound message to deliver to us. But like most graduates, I suppose, my mind was elsewhere—on what will be happening after the ceremony or far into the future.

It is a great honor to be asked to give voice to a message of wisdom and hope to any group of scholars, which all of you have proven yourself to be, or you wouldn't be here in your robes of honor. I will try to give you a memorable message and I will be brief.

But first, I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity before this distinguished and powerful presence to promote something dear to my heart and dear to others among the very capable Native American faculty and staff here at USD. As President Abbott noted in his introduction, I spent considerable time here over the last four years, serving as interim director of the Institute of American Indian Studies. In our efforts, we had devised plans calling for USD to become the center for research and learning on Indian Tribes on the Northern Plains, on par at least with the University of Oklahoma, the University of Arizona and others across the country. I look forward to a continuing relationship to assist in any way that I can to help make that dream come true.

Honored graduates, some of you—perhaps most of you—must see the immediate future not as promising as it was even last

year. Over the past year, it has become a world in economic disarray, with all the signs of deep recession. You may feel yourselves victims—victims to arrogance, greed and profligacy that has characterized our national economy and, to a great extent, our politics.

But I would advise you—if you do feel resentment—to turn that into a righteous, healthy rage that will inspire you and move you to do something about it, because much needs to be done.

It is a greater challenge facing you than that of any generation since WWII. One of The University of South Dakota's most honored graduates, Tom Brokaw, in his best selling book, gave the name the Greatest Generation, to those men and women of that era who gave their all, many of them their lives, in defense of the world against the grossest forces of evil the world had ever seen. They came home victorious after the war, from battlefields in all continents and from factories here in America, to put their families and communities back together and to rebuild the country.

Like that great generation, you will be challenged to face a great danger of America's decline from its lofty perch as the most powerful and the best country on earth.

You will be asked to help rebuild America. Not only the physical plant, but the spirit of true capitalism—not the crap shoot capitalism has become. And you will be asked to help rebuild the moral structure of the nation, which is also in a state of decay. We are challenged to rebuild the very foundation of the nation, and to rebuild

it based on ethics and morals that should hold up and nourish our democracy.

We have, in essence, a new beginning, with a new President and a nation that is chastened and, hopefully, ready to repent, reform and rebuild. What will President Obama ask of us?

A hint of that challenge might be found in a campaign talk to the U.S. Conference of Mayors last summer in which President-elect Obama told them: "Yes, we need to fight poverty. Yes, we need to fight crime. We need to strengthen our cities. But we need to stop seeing our cities as the problem and start seeing them as the solution." He told them that while he intended to be a supportive partner if elected, the mayors should not count on significant additional help from Washington. "Change," he said, "comes from the bottom up, not from the top down." Change does not come from Washington, change comes to Washington. He has repeated that challenge several times in his campaign and his election victory statement.

That is, to me, the way it should be. And it is a challenge to all of us, so you future leaders need not feel alone, but you should feel part of a great movement forward. That's how it will be from now on for all of us in all of our communities. And that creates a great demand for the leadership and the knowledge you take out of this great institution today.

You are ready, you are prepared. You have a big challenge ahead of you. But you are strong, and you are prepared. You are in our prayers. God Bless all of you.

THE ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE OF THE



MISSION:

To develop a Northern Plains American Indian research center at The University of South Dakota (USD) that serves the University community and the regional tribal communities, and to unify the American Indian presence and resources at USD

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- Research and policy development on tribal governance and issues in contemporary American Indian society
- Develop, coordinate and fund inter-disciplinary research projects
- Sustain relations with tribes and tribal colleges and universities
- Advise on tribal relations and culture
- Publish newsletters and annual report
- Administer the Ulyot Lakota Education Endowment
- Administer the Annual Native American essay competition
- Sponsor special events, i.e. lectures, conferences, symposia, etc.
- Indian-related campus programs and activities
- Fundraise for Indian programs and activities
- Assist in recruitment of Native American students

ROAD MAP FOR THE FUTURE OF THE INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES AT USD

Help us embark on the road to ensuring the future of the Institute by making a tax deductible donation now!

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Questions: Patrice H. Kunesch, Director, 605-677-6360 or pkunesch@usd.edu

Comments: _____

SPOTLIGHT: IAIS DIRECTOR CATO VALANDRA (1977–1987)

From the Institute of American Indian Studies News Report No. 70, February 1977:

Cato Valandra was born in 1921, in Red Leaf Community on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. An enrolled member of the tribe, he attended the He Dog Day School at Parmelee and graduated from the St. Francis Mission High School, St. Francis, South Dakota. After serving in the United States Army in the South Pacific during World War II, Valandra began the first of several successful businesses on the reservation. In 1954, he became the treasurer of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and, for the first time, put in modern bookkeeping and fiscal management procedures. From 1962 to 1969, Valandra was the President of his tribe and led it into large programs of housing and industrial development. He was the major factor in the organization of the United Sioux Tribes, which he led in the struggle against the State assumption of jurisdiction on Indian reservations.



The citizens of South Dakota eventually voted down the jurisdictional proposal.

In 1975, Valandra was appointed Director of the state Indian Development Organization where he oversaw the formation of many independent Indian-owned businesses, and appeared before the state legislature, achieving appropriations for his agency. In February of 1975, he became the Tribal Business manager, and then returned to manage his business enterprises. In 1977, Valandra became the Director of the Institute of American Indian Studies at

The University of South Dakota.

Mr. Valandra served his people, his state, and his nation with great distinction. His son, Dr. Edward Valandra, is currently the chair of the Department of American Indian Studies at USD.

Cato Valandra died in 1987.

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