

## Interview with April Lindala: Interim Director for the Center of Native American Studies



By: David Anthony

Anishnaabe News interviewed April Lindala earlier this semester. She is the interim director of the Center for Native American Studies. April has been active on the NMU's Campus for the past twelve years in various positions she has had. She is also a NMU alumna is current working on a graduate degree in Fine Arts. She is of Mohawk and Arabic lineage. She has been active in the Native American community and has been the head female dancer at Pow wows across the state.

**Nish News:** So April where are from and tell us about yourself.

**April:** I grew up in the Detroit area, and graduated in the Lutheran High School North. My Mom is originally from Ohsweken, Ontario which is Six Nations reserve, and my dad grew up his entire life in Detroit as an Arab-American. I chose NMU in an unorthodox manner. It was a far away place from mom but still in the state of Michigan. I could still get the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver and still go to Northern.

Once I got here, I really fit in well with my original area of study which was broadcasting, and excelled quite quickly in my classes because I think I was a hands-on learner. I didn't do so hot in high school. I did well running audio board and cameras and other equipment, and because of that, I was hired at public television at NMU before I graduated with a bachelor's degree. I kind of plugged on a degree while I was working full-time and my grades were actually better when I worked full-time. From there I kind of been all over the university.

University after graduation?

**April:** After five years of being in public television and I succeed in getting my degree. During the time of when I was at public television, Northern had established the Center for Native Studies. The Center was established with hiring of Dr. Tibbetts. He came on board in 1997. One of the first things he established a Native American admissions counselor position. I applied and was hired. This was the first of its kind in the State of Michigan that was solely responsible for Native American Admissions and not actually in the Admissions office. It was really interesting time because looking back at it, I think there was a real need for being able to have access to and contact with Native students and talk them about college in a different manner and in a different manner and setting than the traditional college fair and the traditional high school visit. I learned a lot in those two years that I did that. It was a team effort working closely with admissions, diversity student services in the recruitment and retention of Native students because there was a constant growth period during that time. I think it I something that can still be addressed. The Center should be an advocate for other departments and assisting other departments, but not necessarily take the reigns. But at the time, it was something that was needed and filled a void, and the Center was the one willing to do that and take that risk. Because being new to campus, he probably had a lot of ideas and that was one that certainly one that was more risky than others So I admire Dr. Tibbetts for going out on a limb and doing that. After that, I applied for a position as the Director of Diversity Students.

**Nish News:** Now that you are in the Center for Native Studies, how has this experience changed you as a person, and what are the changes you brought to this position?

**April:** It is a really unique position to be in because it is a transitional, temporary position. However, with that being said, one the initiatives that I hope to bring to the table is the idea of bringing Nish News back. In essence to really serve as an agent of change, I don't know if I am really in the driver's seat to do that without the advice

and counsel of others being that this is temporary.

Bringing it back to a truer sense of its original form, it is student-driven, in print as well as online and serves a broader audience a broader news base. While I appreciate the efforts that were put forth in reviving Anishnaabe News, I think things that student-driven have a real special energy to them. I hope the alumni are excited about it as they learn about its return. I hope that other communities outside of the campus community will be excited to learn about it as well.

**April:** And how have I changed?

**Nish News:** Yes, how have you changed?

**April:** I recently just watched an interview with Jamie Foxx. I really admire him after this interview because he had such a deep respect for his grandmother. His grandmother shared with him, everything you do in life is going to be adding to your own tool belt. In a sense the education you get in high school, the education you get in college, the education you get wherever, you are adding to your tool belt. You never know what kind of house you are going to build on the other side, and what kind of tools you need. When he very, very young he took classical piano and he actually went to college on a classical piano scholarship. Lot of people don't know this about Jamie Foxx. They know him as comedian or slick dude of whatever (laughter). When he was in high school, he was a football player. These are very natural things for young people who have the means and the ability and afford to do that. Those were tools in his tool belt, and he has been able to use them in the film industry and had received wonderful accolades as a result of that. That is why he was hired to do Ray because the director could use him as a piano player. So what has that have to do with me. I think for me, I just adding to my tool belt. I am adding to all my learning experience I am garnering. I hope we will be able to assist the students, the campus of Northern in the future.

# don't miss the 5th annual Ojibwe Food Taster



Molly Meshigaud and former NMU student Pam Abel making fry bread for the food taster.

## 5th Annual Ojibwe Food Taster

The Native American Student Association (NASA) of Northern Michigan University will be hosting their 5th annual Ojibwe Food Taster. This unique event will take place on Sunday, November 6 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm at the DJ Jacobetti Center on the campus of NMU in Marquette.

Admission for the event is \$5.00 for NMU students and \$10.00 for the general public. Organizers are planning to have a full menu of venison, wild rice dishes, corn soup, potatoes, fry bread and much more. The event is planned as a fundraiser for the annual "Learning to Walk Together" traditional pow wow generally held in March.

Maryanne Brown, a NASA member states, "It felt really good to be a part the event as a server. Different cultures of

people together for one purpose. And people were really excited about it."

"The food is good and it will be fun," states NASA member Yolanda Hazen, coordinator for the event. "Cooking was a lot of fun and I liked it when people came back for seconds."

"I'm excited to take part for the first time," adds NASA member Steven Knauf. "Because of all the positive things I heard about it from last year and other peoples' positive experience from last year."

To help promote a healthy environment, the members of the Native American Student Association have promoted this event as a "dishbag" event. "We are asking the public to bring their own dishware," states Hazen. "Our group does not want to use too much Styrofoam which is harmful to the environment." For those individuals who bring their own dishware, a drawing will be held for some wonderful prizes. For more information contact the Native American Student Association

through the NMU Center for Native American Studies at 906-227-1397 during business hours.



The *Anishinaabe News* is published by Native American students of Northern Michigan University.

Volume 1, Issue 1  
November 2005

Send letters to the editor or advertising copy to:

The *Anishinaabe News*  
c/o Center for Native American Studies  
112 Whitman  
Northern Michigan University  
Marquette, Michigan 49855

The *Anishinaabe News* is published when funding is available.

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## SFC Needs to be Revised

By: David Anthony

Do you ever wonder how certain student activities are financed at Northern Michigan University? Magicians, Comedians, Speakers, Experts, Bands, ...etc., the list of different student sponsored events can go on and on. Many times student groups have to raise funds themselves doing an assortment of activities like car washes, book sales, cookie sales, private contributors, door-to-door begging (okay I am going off the deep end). You get the idea. One of the more competitive and beneficial ways to raise funds for student groups on campus is to present their idea for an event in front of the Student Finance Committee (SFC). The SFC receives its funds from the Student Activity Fee. Every student pays this \$30.00 fee along with other fees with their tuition. Some student groups are earmarked and have direct access to the funds while the rest of funds goes through a review process of the SFC.

Now let's look at the nuts and bolts of the SFC and its review processes. The SFC is comprised of ten students who during the course of the semester review the various student groups' proposals. The student groups present their activity and the budget, and usually they find out immediately if their proposal is a success or not. The SFC votes on the proposal after some questioning and answering with the student group. The student group either leaves elated or rejected. The next group comes in to present their ideas.

I have personally seen the SFC process and it can be quite heated. The Native Student Association (NASA) has not found itself in good graces with the SFC. Every year NASA has put on a Pow Wow that happens in the Spring. The Pow Wow is a huge undertaking for any student group, but NASA does it every year. The record keeping is a huge undertaking and takes months for students to dot every I and cross every T for the SFC. The SFC wanted the budget for last year's Pow Wow, however, the student who coordinated the Pow Wow is no longer here on campus. Her leaving the campus had nothing to do with the Pow Wow, but the records are still not in order for the SFC's

liking. Okay let's stop right here and look what other campuses are doing with their Pow Wow. Other campuses and their Student Finance Committees seems to promote the Pow Wow and work with the respective Native student groups who coordinate it. When I was at a University down state we put on the Pow Wow at a local hockey rink. It was a wonderful and well-attended event. NMU's Pow Wow is also for the local community and NMU's student. The Interim Dean of Students told me directly that she did not feel that the Pow Wow is a student event. The Dean of Students is the advisor for the SFC, and she is quite vocal in these proceedings. It is too bad that the Dean feels this way. Sometimes one cannot see the forest through the trees. University of Michigan, Michigan State, Western, Central and a host of other campuses put on annual Pow Wows. Michigan Tech and LSSU put on Pow Wows on their campuses for their student body and community. The point is that NMU's Pow Wow is not going away. NASA will present their project before the SFC and hopefully we can find funds and support on this campus to do the upcoming Pow Wow.

The SFC and the process for selecting the proposals that it wants to fund needs to be changed. It's that simple. The SFC appoints its own members when a student leaves for whatever reason. The Supreme Court cannot even appoint its own nominees. By doing this, the same thoughts get perpetuated year after year. Where is the diverse thought? Thought, itself, becomes homogenized. A diverse SFC is needed. Student groups are more fluid and members change year after year just like the SFC. The SFC should not hold grudges year after year. SFC members need to be trained in diversity. They should know the participants, issues, and the ideas of what the event is even about. I have heard SFC members just say they don't even know who Winona Laduke is and that is reason enough for a "no" vote C'mon, if you are deciding on a student's proposal at least do a little research. An advisor is just advisor. I am advocating for a well-rounded and diverse SFC... and then let the students decide what events are deemed worthy for the student body.

## Editorial: A Review on Rethinking Michigan Indian History

By: David Anthony

Patrick Russell Lebeau's Rethinking Michigan Indian History, is a new cutting edge scholarship that challenges conventional historical thought and teaching practices while advocating change in Native American History. The issues of Native American stereotypes, the "Great Indian man" theory, ignorance of treaties, and how maps distort Native American history are thoroughly discussed and provoke dialogue and understanding with the reader. Patrick Russell LeBeau is an Associate Professor of Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures at Michigan State University, as well as author of a book of poetry, Stands Alone, Faces, and Other Poems. Dr. LeBeau is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Indian Reservation of South Dakota, in his father's home state. His mother is from Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation, North Dakota. Rethinking Michigan Indian History explores what people know about the Anishnabek people in the state of Michigan. The Anishnabek are comprised of various tribes that live around the Great Lakes region, mainly the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi. They share a common language. Currently twelve Anishnabek tribes are

federally recognized in Michigan. Rethinking Michigan Indian History is a teaching tool that honors the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi. Each lesson includes a background narrative, a set of hands-on activities, and provides easily understood and visual resources. The lesson that explores Indian stereotypes acknowledges their existence not only in the mainstream society but also in our educational system starting in kindergarten. Mainstream society is not chastised for having bought Big Chief Sugar nor is the teachers admonished for having young students make canoes, paddles, and Indians out of paper as the exercise to explain and identify Native Americans. The lessons takes these activities as a demonstration of what most people know about Indians and from there begins to question in an intelligent manner of what we do know so students, teachers, and the rest of us can come up with a better understanding of Native Americans. These lessons create an interactive process of gaining understanding; the teachers, the students can begin to question and answer what do we know, how do we know what we know. The lesson on "great" Indian men shows that the popular methodology that main-

stream historians use when they write history. The idea that only Great White Men can only make history has been under attack by scholars. Lebeau points out that the same methodology happens in Native American History. The biographies of famous Indian warriors (Pontiac or Tecumseh) or individual women (Pocahontas or Sacagawea) do narrow the understanding of Native Americans to a one dimensional and symbolic representation. The larger issues of cultural history are ignored as culture itself becomes fixated in time and focused on a few, often distorted view of a few individuals. . Treaties are explained in a manner that is understandable to children and adults by showing where Indians lived, the treaty boundaries, and tribal land holdings. This lesson also how explains how maps are made. Rethinking Michigan Indian History provides teaching tools and lessons that are a basis for a change in our thinking. To change our stereotypes, misrepresentations, and distortions, all of us need to rethink our own thoughts together. Patrick Lebeau has provided a vehicle to do this.

## What is the American Indian Coordinating Council?

By: Molly Meshigaud

Representing various tribes, the American Indian Coordinating Council (AICC) is composed of volunteers who meet at least once a month to discuss events happening within the different groups and how to better the community with activities. Focused on youth activities, the AICC organizes events for families, elders and substance abuse. AICC invites to numerous organizations throughout the Marquette area to select a member to represent the group. Community members can also sit on the council. NMU has been an active member providing representatives from Diversity Student Services, the Center for Native American Studies and the Native American Student Association.

The organization is governed through bylaws. Currently, there is no form of hierarchy; AICC, instead, uses table discussions to make decisions. AICC also donates monies for activities throughout the area that are coordinated by other groups such as the recent Sweet Grass Associations Film Festival along with NASA's annual Pow Wow. The AICC building is located at 119 Baraga Avenue next to the U.P. Children's Museum is utilized for the meetings, other events for the community and a gift shop. The gift shop offers a various selection of products such as beads, CDs and jewelry. The store is open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00am to 4:00pm. The community at large can also

utilize the building for events. NMU has also offered classes in the AICC building. Council member, Peggy Derwin, has been appointed the part-time Youth Activities Coordinator. One upcoming event will be on November 30th, 2005 and that event will be, Snow show decoration making. The remaining activities for November and December are still being planned. If you are interested in attending any events, you may email Peggy Derwin at pbderwin@chartermi.net. If you interested in contacting AICC, you may call (906) 226-5044 during open hours or leave a message or visit the website www.charterinternet.com/aicc/.

# Native American Students Association

## What is N.A.S.A About?

By: Molly Meshigaud

The Native American Student Association (NASA) serves to promote their heritage and way of life through activities. They also strive to be a supportive and interactive group for Native American students. Composed of both Native and non-Native American students, NASA is known for advocating the education of Native American culture. Throughout the years, NASA has been active in hosting multiple events such as the annual Pow Wow and Food Taster.

Everyone is encouraged to join and welcomed to attend their weekly meetings. This year there are no forms of hierarchy within the Association. There is equality throughout the decision making. Everyone has a voice and they are continuously searching for ideas for new events. So far this semester NASA members built a float for the homecoming parade. They have also been making plans to host fundraisers throughout the community to raise funds for future activities.

Initially NASA was known as the Anishnabe Club when it began in 1992 and changed the name to Native American Student Association in 1997 to include all Native American Nations in the name. NASA's awards include: recipient of the 2000-2001 Organization of the Year Award as well as the 2000-2001 Diversity Program/Project of the Year Award for the "Learning to Walk Together" Pow-Wow.

If you are interested in joining NASA, you can either email Steve Knauf or attend their weekly meetings.

**Contact person:** Steve Knauf

**Email:** sknauf@nmu.edu

**Meeting time:** Every Friday at 12:30pm

**Meeting place:** Center for Native American

Studies or Room 142 Whitman

**Website:** <http://nasa.nmu.edu/>

**Advisor:** April Lindala, Interim Director, Center for Native American Studies

## Student Showcase: Dana Picard

By: Molly Meshigaud



Dana Picard is a tribal member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. Majoring in Sociology with a minor in Native American Studies, Dana is residing within the Native American Experience

House for her third year at Northern Michigan University.

Before moving to Marquette, Dana requested the Native American Experience House as her preference, but was put in another house due to lack of open space. Dana was interested in living the Native House because she wanted to be around other Native American students so she contacted the Housing and Residence Life office and requested to be moved. Halfway through her first semester she was switched into the Native House and has stayed there since. As a third year resident, her decision to stay in dorms another year was affected by several reasons. The accessibility that on campus housing provides as well as her freshman sister who is now her roommate were important factors. It is much easier to just walk to class than drive and Dana feels that it is her responsibility to be a constant support as well as a mentor to her sister.

Dana says that living with other Natives within the house made it easier for her to be away from home. Coming directly from a reservation, she felt at ease knowing that there were other Natives within the house. The activities put on by the Community and Cultural Advocate such as movie night, Indian taco dinners and study groups also helped her become more comfortable. Dana recommends other Native students to choose the Native American Experience House as their preference because she feels it helps students transition into college life especially coming from a small community. West hall is the only dorm up campus which makes it secluded. Many might see this as a disadvantage, but for Native Students coming from the reservation, the small community of West Hall makes the changes less intimidating.

Dana included that she came to college to further her education for so she can eventually return to the Keweenaw Bay Indian reservation to be a positive role model. She would like to bring her experiences back to the community and encourage more kids to do the same as she has.



For those interested in helping with Anishnaabe News, please stop by the office at the Center for Native Studies in Whitman Hall, or call us at 227-1397.

N.A.S.A members Steve Knauf, Sam Hill, Dana Laporte, Samantha W, James Christensen, and Jeff McGeshick holding the banner in the 2005 Homecoming parade.

Wade Wiartalla (NMU Student) made copper bowls at the Title Seven picnic.

