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Marquette, MI 49855

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# Anishnaabe News

Volume 1, Issue 5  
Summer, 2006

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### Please Join Us During Welcome Weekend

### *Anishinaabe Drum Social*

Dancing \* Singing \* Refreshments  
Have a blast \* Meet new people

Friday, August 25, 2006

6:00 - 9:00 PM in Whitman Commons or outside weather permitting  
More information call 906-227-1397 or email [cnas@nmu.edu](mailto:cnas@nmu.edu).

## Kinomaage: A Unique Northwoods Experience

By Aimee Cree Dunn

Can't that cattail fluff be used for something? How is a birchbark canoe laced together anyway? Didn't the forests used to look different, healthier?



*Elizabeth Hollowell, Jennifer Budreau and Vance Hiney (l to r) on the KBIC wild rice field trip.*

If you're someone who asks these sorts of questions, then you'd likely be interested in a new course that was recently offered for the second time through the Center for Native American Studies. "Kinomaage: The Earth Shows Us the Way" was offered last summer and this summer as a Special Topics course. Students who took the course found answers to questions like those mentioned above. Cattail fluff can be used for a variety of things including absorbent down for diapers and insulating filling for footwear. Black spruce roots are used to lace canoes together. And, yes, indeed, our forests are not as healthy as they once were. Thanks to recent interviews with Ojibwe elders about Anishinaabeg traditional ecological knowledge (accumulated for centuries before industrial barons "discovered" the Great Lakes area), students at NMU can learn these sorts of things.

The field trips tend to be the highlight of the course for students. This year, the class had the opportunity to take a canoe

trip through the manoomin (wild rice) beds of the nearby Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. The trip was arranged by the course's Language Advisor, Don Chosa, with the generous permission of the KBIC Cultural Committee. While on the field trip, the class saw manoomin in its early stages, tried a bit of apakway (cattail shoot), learned how to identify the nesting tree of migizi (eagle) and enjoyed a picnic lunch that really turned out to be more of a banquet of burgers and portabella mushrooms than a mere sitting down to eat peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. On the return home, the class stopped at Canyon Falls, acquainted themselves with various plants there (including gigantic zhaashaagomin or Jack-in-the-Pulpit), and took in the beauty of the Sturgeon River as it tumbled its way through the Western Upper Peninsula.

Other trips included jaunts to Laughing Whitefish Falls (led by NMU's Dr. Alan Rebertus) and the Yellow Dog River (with James D. Dunn as our forester guide) as well as an informative session just north of Marquette on acid rain's effects (conducted by ecologist and environmental activist Doug Cornett). Through these trips, the class found an abundance of bagwaji-zhi (wild leek), encountered numerous early spring wildflowers, learned of the various trees that commonly grow in our area, and discovered what acid rain can do to otherwise healthy trees.

For the last evening of the course, the students prepared a grand feast featuring local plants. The vast array of dishes included steamed mazaan (stinging nettle); manoomin with apakway, venison and bagwaji-zhigaagawanzhiig (wild rice dishes with cattail shoots, venison and wild leeks); popcorn glazed with maple syrup; popped manoomin with dried

miinan (wild rice with dried blueberries); and sweet fern tea. The students wound up the evening with an array of impressive public presentations.

Kinomaage is essentially about disseminating the traditional ecological knowledge of Anishinaabeg elders in order to provide students with an eco-cultural understanding of the Upper Peninsula. Through lectures, discussions and field trips, students learn about various area plants, discover how these plants are traditionally used by the Anishinaabeg, study the different eco-cultural values found in traditional Anishinaabeg and Western societies, and find out about some of the ecological threats currently facing the Northwoods. Both times the course has been offered, the class has ended up being more than a learning experience. It also has become a bonding experience, each course ending with plans for future Kinomaage events.

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## Brozzo Addresses Baraga/L'Anse Graduates

By Shirley Brozzo

On June 7, 2006 the Keweenaw Bay Tribe of Chippewa Indians held their Senior banquet to honor nineteen tribal graduates



from Baraga and L'Anse High Schools and the Adult Education Program. The event held at the Big Bucks Bingo Hall was catered by Roeper's Restaurant. After opening comments by Terri Denomie, Vicki Emery offered a prayer. Both Denomie and Emery are members of the Education Committee.

KBIC member Shirley Brozzo opened her keynote speech with a quote from contem-

porary author Danielle Steele, "Never settle for less than your dreams. Somewhere, sometime, some day, some how, you'll find them." After acknowledging the successes of each of the graduates, Brozzo offered four strategies to help the graduates meet or exceed their dreams while pursuing higher education: ask questions, find a mentor, accept responsibility for everything you do, and stay balanced. Over half of these graduates present stated they are going to college in the

fall, including about seven who are headed to NMU. Brozzo knows a little about realizing dreams, as she has just completed her Master of Fine Arts degree and has a novel under consideration for publication by Michigan State University Press.

Because other Native Americans such as Winona LaDuke, Cory Witherhall, Eddie Benton-Banai, Louise Erdrich, John Herrington, and Ben Nighthorse Campbell

have dared to dream and take risks, they have created positive role models for these students to follow. Although the successes of each student's own grandparents, parents, or older siblings might not be as well known, Brozzo encouraged each of these current graduates to take a few risks and to never settle for less than their dreams.

The evening's events ended with the presentation of several gifts from the Keweenaw Bay Tribal Education Committee, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the Keweenaw Bay Cultural Committee and the Ojibwa Senior Citizens. In addition four scholarships were awarded. Cody Blue received the Dawn Louise Denomie Scholarship. Ty Curtis, a graduate of Baraga High School, was awarded the Education Committee Scholarship while L'Anse graduates Melissa Crebessa and Jennie Haataja shared their honors and scholarship monies.

## Native American Summer Leadership Program

By Shirley Brozzo

The King\*Chavez\*Parks College Day Program (Public Act 154 of 2005) at Northern Michigan University sponsored the Native American Summer Leadership Program June 25 through July 1. Thirty-four middle school students from Baraga,



Escanaba, Gwinn, Hannahville, Marquette, Munising, Negaunee, Rapid River, Sault Ste. Marie, and Watersmeet spent the week living in West Hall on NMU's campus and eating in the Wildcat Den. Three Native instructors returned to assist with this year's activities includ-

ing Betty Gardner and Cindy Madosh who helped the students create beaded rings, bracelets and/or lanyards while Wade Wiartalla shared his knowledge of Anishinaabemowin. Nancy Usitalo and Mike Shelifoe (also Native) again provided hands-on opportunities to learn about economics and budgeting. Ask any of the students to tell you about their piggies.

While on campus the students had the opportunity to learn more about staying in school and thinking about coming to college. In addition to hearing an excellent College Day presentation by Head Counselors Rae'Kheal Alexander and Chris Curry, the students also had the opportunity to talk about real college experiences with their chaperones, who are all college students themselves. New activities this year included a tour of the Jacobetti Center, led by Mike Turino from Vocational Support Services and a

nursing presentation by Julie Dobson where the students were able to try out some of the instruments often used in her profession. Students really enjoyed the teambuilding activities led by their counselors and the opportunity to use the PEIF, including the pool, basketball hoops and the climbing wall.

Highlights of the week included the Masterpiece Theater during which Dr. Robert Engelhart and several of the theater students performed for the campers and answered questions about their college experiences, a water balloon fight between the counselors and campers, and an "olde tyme" photography session blending old clothes and digital cameras. Several local businesses and NMU departments generously donated gifts and prizes for the students. College Day Program Director Shirley Brozzo (KBIC) says Chi Megwetch to everyone who helped make this program a success.

## Sault Tribe Citizen Wins Tax Appeal for Educational Treaty Rights



Dr. Martin Reinhardt

Dr. Martin Reinhardt is a citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and a research associate for the Interwest Equity Assistance Center at Colorado State University. In 1998, he was accepted into a doctoral program in Educational Leadership at the Pennsylvania State University and received an American Indian Leadership Fellowship award. The fellowship was provided under a professional development grant from the U.S. Department of Education. He graduated in 2004.

The American Indian Leadership Fellowship provided Reinhardt with a \$1180 stipend per month during his time in the program. This stipend was intended to help defray costs related to his attendance at PSU.

Reinhardt decided early on in his doctoral program to focus on treaty rights and educational leadership in his studies. His dissertation is titled "A Comparative Socio-historical Content Analysis of Treaties and Current American Indian Education Legislation with Implications for the State of Michigan."

What he found through his studies is that the United States remains obligated to Martin's tribe and others for certain educational benefits guaranteed by multiple treaties. Several treaty educational provisions remain in effect today including

everything from books written in Native languages to land which would be used for schools. Sadly, many of these provisions remain unfulfilled.

It dawned on Reinhardt, as he was preparing his taxes during his first year at PSU, that tribal fishermen back home did not pay taxes on their income which was derived from treaty fishing rights. Because the stipend Martin received under the fellowship was based on his tribal citizenship, he looked at the body of treaty rights for education and deduced that he should not have to pay taxes on the fellowship. He explained all of this to the local tax preparer who agreed that it was a similar situation to treaty fishing rights and did not end up claiming it as income for that year or the next.

After Reinhardt returned home to Michigan, he changed tax preparers. The new preparer did not agree with Reinhardt's assessment based on treaty rights and suggested claiming that year's stipend amount as income. Reinhardt did so reluctantly. The change resulted in a cost of \$2,287 in taxes, a huge amount for a struggling student with a family.

The following year, again switched tax preparers. This time the preparer agreed that the stipend should not have been taxable and submitted paperwork on Reinhardt's behalf to reclaim the amount from the previous year. The claim was denied at first, and Reinhardt appealed. In his written testimony, Reinhardt explained the treaty basis of education for his tribe, and how the stipend was linked to treaty rights.

After multiple conversations and correspondences with an IRS reviewer, Reinhardt finally convinced them of the validity of his treaty rights claim. On March 23, 2006, Reinhardt was finally allowed a claim of \$2,182 based on his 2003 American Indian Leadership Fellowship stipend.

Reinhardt points out that this is a small victory for American Indian treaty rights overall, but that it is an extremely important outcome regarding the status of treaty educational provisions and their relationship with current Indian education legislation. In this instance, the federal government has conceded that the treaty basis for Reinhardt's tribe includes educational provisions that have a bearing on current law. Reinhardt also cautions that not all tribes have the same treaty rights. He says "I wouldn't tell anyone to not pay their taxes on educational awards without first researching their treaty educational rights."

Dr. John Tippeconnic, III, Reinhardt's professor and advisor at Penn State, stated that "Marty's interest and knowledge in treaty rights combined with his persistence resulted in the IRS acknowledging and approving his request. This demonstrates that treaty provisions still apply and that knowledge and research about treaty rights are beneficial to tribal members today."

For a copy of Dr. Reinhardt's dissertation, please contact him at martinr@cahs.colostate.edu For more information about the American Indian Leadership Fellowship at Penn State, contact Dr. John Tippeconnic, III at jwt@psu.edu

