

**35<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on the American Indian  
Oklahoma 1907-2007: And Still the Waters Run  
Agenda**

**Special Pre Symposium Events**

**Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, NET Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.**

2007 American Indian Symposium Film Series

Nathan Young, IV and Donita Oosahwee

Showcasing contemporary films written, produced, and/or directed by American Indian, Alaska Native, and First Nations film makers including: Roy Boney, Blackhorse Lowe, Andrew Maclean, Tracy Rector of Native Lens, and others. Special showing of a history documentary project by Tahlequah High School students. Coordinated by Nathan Young, IV (Pawnee/Delaware), Rockefeller Foundation Media Arts Fellow, and Donita Oosahwee (Cherokee/Three Affiliated Tribes), National Indian Women's Health Resource Center. Co-sponsors: American Indian Resource Center, National Indian Women's Health Resource Center, and Native Airspace Productions.

**Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> - Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**

**All Day Activities**

Traditional Arts Vendor Booths, Ballroom Lounge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Institutional Information Booths, Ballroom A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

NSU Bookstore Display and Book Sale, 2nd Floor Landing

Publisher Book Display, Ballroom A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Tom Fields - Photography Exhibit, Room 222, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., Ballroom B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**Opening Ceremony, Hosted by the Native American Student Association (NASA)**

**Keynote Speaker:** *The Power of Vision*, Mr. Brian Frejo, Pawnee/Seminole

Cultural Activist, Youth Advocate, DJ, and Performer

Since 2000, Frejo's highly successful company, Created 4 Greatness (C4G), and nationally known hip-hop group, Culture Shock, has provided invaluable services and entertainment to reservations, urban Indian communities, national and regional conferences, and universities. *The Power of Vision* is a dynamic and interactive workshop that challenges youth to dare to dream, visualize, and realize their power to achieve their personal potential. To learn more visit: [www.cultureshockcamp.com](http://www.cultureshockcamp.com).

**Afternoon Concurrent Sessions**

**1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m., Morgan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

*The Jacobson House and the Kiowa Five*

Russ Tall Chief, Director, Jacobson House Native Art Center, University of Oklahoma

The Jacobson House in Norman is the former residence of Oscar Brousse Jacobson (1882 – 1966), the Swedish artist/educator who developed the University of Oklahoma's School of Art, founded the Museum of Art, and launched The Kiowa Five into the international art arena. The artists who became known as The Kiowa Five exerted a strong and positive influence on later Native American artists. Their art style impacted the way the acculturation of all Native Americans was viewed. ). To learn more visit <http://www.jacobsonhouse.com/>. (Note: Murals painted in this style can be viewed in Seminary Hall on the NSU campus) Co-Sponsored by the Oklahoma Humanities Council

**1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m., Dogwood, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

*Native Americans at Higher Risk for Hearing Problems*

Dr. Jan (Goldman) Parks, Audiologist, NSU Speech and Hearing Department

Over 30 million Americans have very significant hearing loss and over one million Americans are “deaf.” Native American Indians are at higher risk for hearing problems. Genetics, noise, medication and aging are main causes of hearing loss that tremendously affect quality of life and interaction with friends and loved ones. Come ask all your questions and find out what you can do to prevent and help communication problems!

**1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m., Ballroom B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

*An Introduction to Tribal, State, and National Governments*

Shannel Adams, Comanche, Northeastern Student Government Association (NSGA)

Leadership development in student government is enhanced by gaining knowledge about the similarities and differences in local, state, national, and tribal governments. This presentation will also explore various leadership positions within each governing body (election process, length of term, etc), as well as how laws are passed at each level.

**2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m., Morgan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

*Beneath the “Indian” Stereotype -Documenting Our People Through Media Projects*

Tom Fields, Photographer

Ted Isham, Curator, Creek Nation Council House Museum

Photography has been around since the 1800s, so why are images of Native people still in the Hollywood - western romantic genre? This session will examine the role documentary projects play in communities and in cultural preservation. Fields urges the audience to explore strategies and methods to create their own documentary projects. A Creek church documentary project called *Mekusapvlke* will be reviewed along with projects by other Native photographers and filmmakers. To learn more visit: [www.nativefields.com/](http://www.nativefields.com/).

**2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m., Rm 223, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

*Cherokee Student Research and Language Projects*

Coordinated by Wyman Kirk, Cherokee Degree Program, Presentations by Cherokee Language Scholars

Ten scholars from the Cherokee Language Degree Program at NSU will present individual projects and Cherokee language activities. All presentations will be delivered in the Cherokee language.

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., Beta Field**

Traditional Stickball Game Hosted by the Native American Student Association

The game of stickball, traditionally referred to as the “little brother of war” is an activity shared by Southeastern tribes. In the Northeast, the game of lacrosse is assumed to have come from this ancient sport. Adapted by contemporary cultures, this indigenous game still provokes fierce competition in tribal communities today. Audience participation is welcome. Signed waivers of liability are required.

**4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Cedar Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

Crowning of Miss NASA 2007-2008

Join members of the Native American Student Association in a reception to honor the crowning of Miss NASA 2007-08. Meet Samantha Coon (Creek/Seminole), Miss NASA 2006-07. Former Miss NASAs are invited as special guests. Sponsor: Muscogee Creek Nation Casino.

**2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Dogwood, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

*Hearing Tests- Walk in Screening*

Dr. Jan (Goldman) Parks, Doctor of Audiology, NSU Speech/Language Pathology Program

As a service of the NSU Speech and Hearing Clinic, symposium participants and guests are invited to come by for a hearing test on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Just walk in and sign up.

**Evening Session**

**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., NET Auditorium**

*2007 American Indian Symposium Film Series Feature*

Rod Pocowatchit and Joseph Erb

Award winning independent filmmakers, Pocowatchit and Erb, will share their latest productions and provide some insight into the business of filmmaking. Pocowatchit's first feature length films, *Dancing on the Moon* and *Sleepwalker* have earned numerous awards. A traditional dancer, Pocowatchit will also serve as Head Man Dancer at the NSU Alumni Powwow on Friday and Saturday. To learn more visit [www.harmyfilms.com](http://www.harmyfilms.com). Erb earned a master's degree in filmmaking at the University of Pennsylvania and returned to the Cherokee Nation to apprentice young filmmakers in the art of animation and digital storytelling. His works and the student projects he directed have been shown internationally, including special screenings at the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian. To learn more visit [www.blackgummountain.com](http://www.blackgummountain.com).

**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Jazz Lab**

*Culture Shock Camp Performance*

Brian Frejo (Pawnee/Seminole), Cultural Activist, Youth Advocate, DJ, and Performer

Culture Shock Camp sound and vibe are defined by its unique and powerful blend of hip-hop and Native music that promotes a message of wellness, unity, and Native pride. Culture Shock's dynamic sound, combined with a powerful message they convey through music words and dance, leaves a lasting impact on the audiences, particularly on Native youth. To learn more visit: [www.cultureshockcamp.com](http://www.cultureshockcamp.com). Hosted by Native American Student Association

**Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Redbud Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

Special Event: Native Language Fair (K-12 Students)

Dr. Gloria Sly, Director, Cherokee Nation Cultural Resource Center

The First Annual Cherokee Language Fair provides a great opportunity for students to show off their developing language skills in a fun and supportive environment. Categories include: Spoken Language Presentation (preschool-12<sup>th</sup> grade); Language Presentation in Song (preschool-12<sup>th</sup> grade); Poster Art with Language Theme (3<sup>rd</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade); Cherokee Film, Video or Multi-Media Production (6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade).

**9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., Ballroom B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

Morning General Session

Hosted by the Indian University Scholars Society (IUSS)

Welcome by Miranda Knight, Cherokee, IUSS President

Traditional Music Performance by the Cherokee Immersion Program Students

**10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Ballroom B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**Keynote Speaker**

*And Still the Waters Run---But Not Always Clear*

Wes Studi, Cherokee, Award Winning Actor

The entry of Native actors and writers into the mainstream film and entertainment industry has brought about new perspectives and a clearer voice for indigenous peoples. Likewise, American Indian celebrities bring back to the Indian community new visions for Native youth, pride for elders, and a revitalization of cultural values. An accomplished award-winning performer, Studi is also among the elite category of fluent Cherokee speakers with a mission to keep native languages alive. To learn more visit [www.thestudigroup.com/](http://www.thestudigroup.com/).

**11:30 a.m. – 12:50 p.m., Ballroom C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

Luncheon with Keynote Speaker

*The Hanging of Angie Debo*

Dr. Rennard Strickland

Visiting Professor of Law, University of Oklahoma School of Law

Dean and Knight Professor Emeritus, University of Oregon School of Law

Strickland draws upon personal interviews, correspondence and archival materials to represent the human struggles, as well as the academic and political challenges of Angie Debo, including the legislative response to her “naming names” and the battle over her editing of the WPA Guidebook on Oklahoma. Sponsor: Oklahoma Humanities Council

**Afternoon Concurrent Sessions**

**1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Soccer Field**

Traditional Cornstalk Shoot Competition

Co-Coordinators Kate Felzien, NSU Research and Sponsored Programs, and

Debra Grayson, Cherokee Cornstalk Shoot Society

The traditional cornstalk shoot began in the days of our ancestors. Games were often held in a central location hosting many archers from near and far; other games were held in back yards of archers who would invite local archers over for a good game and betting on the side. The Cherokee Cornstalk Society will lead this competition and audience participation encouraged. Signed waivers of liability are required. Symposium t-shirts will be awarded to first, second, and third place.

**1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., Ballroom B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

*The Legacy of Angie Debo: An Introduction to the film “Indians, Outlaws, and Angie Debo”*

Introduction of Film and Discussion led by Dr. Patti Loughlin, Assistant Professor of History

University of Central Oklahoma

*American Experience: Indians, Outlaws, and Angie Debo*, is a 1988 documentary produced by Barbara Abrash and directed by Martha Sandlin. Loughlin will provide a brief biographical sketch of Angie Debo (1890-1988), the historian from Marshall, Oklahoma, who devoted her life to the study of American Indian history and Oklahoma’s distinct identity as a place of frontier possibilities and American Indian settlement. The session will conclude with commentary on the film and historians’ responses to the Debo legacy.

**1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., Room 225**

*Hawaiian Native Language Program Overview*

Alohalani Housman, Hoku Kamake’e’aina, and Kalemaile Robia, University of Hawaii, Hilo

Native Hawaiian, once widely used in its spoken and written forms, experienced rapid loss through the agency of bans on its use in schools. Current elder speakers are in their seventies and older. Revitalization of the language began seriously in university classes taught through, rather than about, Hawaiian language. The program grew to include total immersion in Hawaiian from preschool through grade 12. University

programming now includes training for immersion teachers in a total immersion setting. Session presenters include a teacher/parent who was a pioneer in the revitalization, and two entry level teachers. To learn more, visit [www.uhh.hawaii.edu/academics/hawn/](http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/academics/hawn/). Co-sponsor: Cherokee Nation

**2:40 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Ballroom B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

Second Annual Cherokee Language Forum

Moderated by Harry Oosahwee and Dennis Sixkiller, Cherokee Nation

Fluent Cherokee language speakers from North Carolina and Oklahoma will discuss the current tribal issues surrounding the revitalization of the Cherokee language giving the audience a unique opportunity to experience the spoken Cherokee language. Panelists include: Gil Jackson and Myrtle Driver, Eastern Band Cherokee; and Joe Byrd, Bobbi Scott, and Anna Huckaby, Cherokee Nation.

**2:40 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Morgan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

*The Women Who Pioneered Oklahoma: A Collective Autobiography*

Connie Henshaw, Lecturer and Dr. Terri Baker, Chair, Department of Languages and Literature, NSU

American Indian women, Black women, and White women worked alone, together and often side-by-side in the settlement of Indian Territory and Early Oklahoma. Interviews with settlers and elders conducted in 1936-37 through the WPA Program were compiled into the “Indian-Pioneer History Papers.” This collection was directed and edited by Grant Foreman and includes more than 11,000 first person interviews, and is the primary resource of this presentation, which will highlight the personal experiences of the women interviewed.

**2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Dogwood, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

*Hearing Tests- Walk in Screening*

Dr. Jan (Goldman) Parks, Doctor of Audiology, NSU Speech/Language Pathology Program

As a service of the NSU Speech and Hearing Clinic, symposium participants and guests are invited to come by for a hearing test on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Just walk in and sign up.

**Evening Concurrent Sessions**

**6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Morgan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

Native Language Revitalization Seminar, *Part One: Still the Waters Run/Preparing Proposals for Documentation and Revitalization of Endangered Languages*

Led by Akira Yamamoto, Linguist, University of Kansas

This evening seminar introduces the current state of Native Language documentation and revitalization efforts by language communities and by linguistic researchers. It focuses on current funding opportunities for documenting, teaching, and learning Native languages. Co-Sponsored by the Oklahoma Humanities Council, Oklahoma Native Language Association, and the Center for Tribal Studies

**6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Ballroom C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

*Someday*

Performance by Thunder Road Theater, Julie Pearson Little Thunder, Artistic Director

From the 1940s through 60s in Canada—as in the United States—tens of thousands of Indian children were unjustly taken from their homes by social workers and offered up for adoption. The “great round up” as it is called in Canada, not only brought incalculable suffering to parents and relatives, it created several generations of Indian children, raised entirely outside tribal circles, with no exposure to other Indians, and no knowledge of

their tribal identities. Drew Hayden Taylor's *Someday* is a bittersweet comedy that explores this destructive policy in a First Nations setting.

**Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Special Concurrent Seminar**

**8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Morgan, 3d Floor**

Native Language Revitalization Seminar, *Part Two: Morphology and Syntax: Ingenuity of Native Language*  
Led by Akira Yamamoto, Linguist, University of Kansas

Language is a subject -- or object -- of wonder. This seminar begins with an exploration in both similarities and differences among languages by examining how each language may create words and sentences, and proceeds on applying the structural knowledge to developing language teaching materials including games, books, computer-assisted materials. The seminar invites all Native language teachers, speakers, learners, and individuals interested in joining the Native language reclaiming and revitalization efforts. Co-Sponsored by the Oklahoma Humanities Council, Oklahoma Native Language Association, and the Center for Tribal Studies

**Morning General Session**

**9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., Ballroom B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

General Session

Hosted by American Indian Science & Engineering Society

Welcome by Dedi Snell, NSU AISES Chapter President and 2006-07 AISES Region IV Representative, and Sara Barnett-Flores, AISES Senior National Student Representative

Dulcimer Performance by Rachel Clinton, Muscogee (Creek)

**10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Ballroom B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**Keynote Speaker**

*What Every Alottee Needs to Know*

Marcella Giles, Attorney

One hundred years later, after the assault on Tribal Nations by allotment policies from 1887 to 1907, the impact of trust and title instruments represents a collision course of clouded titles; incomplete probates; the end of 100-year mineral leases; lost records; unidentified parcels of restricted land; minerals severed from the surface, but still in restricted status; and a myriad of trespass or adverse possession issues. Giles will offer possible solutions to some of these issues.

**Afternoon Concurrent Sessions**

**1:00 p.m. – 4:00 pm., Room 222**

*Traditional Arts Demonstration: Basket Weaving Workshop*

Shannon Snell, Cherokee, Hosted by the American Indian Science & Engineering Society

A demonstration of making traditional Cherokee double-walled baskets. Snell, a chemist by profession, learned the skills of basketmaking at a very young age as a summer apprentice at the Cherokee Heritage Center. She has developed a technique for creating miniature double-walled baskets and has won awards in state competitions. With 15 years of experience, she generously shares her expertise and cultural knowledge with others who want to learn. Audience participation is encouraged. Limited supplies will be provided. Sponsor: American Indian Science & Engineering Society

**1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m., Room 225**

*In Defense of 'This Great Family Government and Estate': Cherokee Masculinity and the Opposition to Allotment*

Dr. Rose Stremmler, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

One of the early chapters of Stremmler's book-in-process entitled, *Cherokee Families: Cultural Persistence During the Allotment Years*, explores the ways that Cherokee families responded to allotment, the subdivision of their tribal land during the early-twentieth century. The popular history of allotment has emphasized the abuse of Native people by government officials and grafters alike, and while true, this story tells us nothing about how Indian people survived their dislocation as individuals and as culturally cohesive and distinct communities. The author emphasizes the ways that Cherokee families in Oklahoma adapted allotment policy to meet their own needs and conform to their own customs. Co-Sponsor: Oklahoma Humanities Council

**1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m., Room 226**

*On the Issue of Sovereignty*

Dr. Les Hannah, Assistant Professor of English and American Indian Studies, Kansas State University

This presentation examines certain aspects of the Indian Nations rights to self govern and the obstacles they encounter along the way toward self governance. The presentation also scrutinizes modern mainstream America's contemporary view of Indian Nations.

**1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m., Ballroom B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

*Exploring the Universality of Cherokee Principles*

Crosslin Smith, Cherokee Traditionalist

Cultural knowledge and lifelong practice of traditional principles sustain the Cherokee way of life. Smith, member of a traditional Keetoowah family, says the Keetoowah Society is best known as the keepers of God's Eternal Flame. A spiritual healer, or "medicine man," he uses traditional methods and medicines passed down through generations of teachings through the Cherokee language. In his travels he has discovered a universality of elements of the Keetoowah doctrine.

**2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m., Room 223**

*Ethnomedical Field Research in Belize, 2006-2008*

Dr. Ben Kracht, Professor of Anthropology/Coordinator of American Indian Studies

Dr. Erik Terdal, Associate Professor of Biology, Northeastern State University

This session provides an overview of the ongoing research conducted in Belize, Central America, which focuses on the loss of indigenous knowledge pertaining to tropical plant medicines threatened by language death and deforestation. The study will include documentation of tropical plants that have been used by Maya Indians in the Cayo District for thousands of years, and the collection of plant lore pertaining to their uses. The base of operations is Clarissa Falls Ranch, owned and operated by Chena Gálvez, a renowned Maya/Mestizo healer known for her herbal remedies. To learn more visit [www.clarissafalls.com](http://www.clarissafalls.com).

**2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m., Redbud, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

*Cherokee Literature*

Robert Conley, Writer

Cherokee literature has been with us for as long as there have been Cherokees, but it has been changed (i.e., added to over the years). It is a rich tradition, even though that information has been unknown to, or ignored by, many non-Indians, academics in particular, for many years. The tradition is alive and well among us today.

"And Still the Waters Run." A member of the Western Writers of America, Conley has won three Spur Awards, Oklahoma Writer of the Year, Wordcraft Circle Writer of the Year, and is an inductee in the Oklahoma Professional Writers Hall of Fame. To learn more visit [www.hanksville.org/storytellers/conley/](http://www.hanksville.org/storytellers/conley/).

**2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m., Dogwood, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**  
Scholarship of Discovery: Student Research

*American Indian Boarding School Education: Two Case Studies*, Megan McGregor,  
This paper utilizes primary sources to examine Native American boarding schools in the mid-20th century. The work focuses primarily on the incidents at the Chilocco Indian School from 1968-80, culminating in the school's closure. The paper attempts to answer how Chilocco differed from similar institutions that did not close in the 20th century.

*Origins of Red Earth Festival*, Felicia Harrison  
In his book, *A Dancing People*, Clyde Ellis argues the phenomenon of the large arena powwows that materialized in the 1970s-80s are a fundamental component in the formation and preservation of contemporary Indian culture on the Southern plains. This study focuses on the influential and philanthropic civic leaders of the Red Earth movement in 1986-87.

*Politics, Personality, and Pride: The Story of Helen Cole*, Julie Bennett-Jones,  
The legacy of Helen Cole holds a unique place in the story of Oklahoma. Her time in public service spanned from the 1970s through the 1990s, when she served in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, the Senate, the Ethics Commission, and as mayor of Moore, Oklahoma. This presentation will explore the ways in which she utilized the pride she held in her Native identity and the strength of her personality to positively affect the lives of all Oklahomans.

**2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m., Ballroom B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
*Traditional Arts Demonstration: Dance*  
Sun Rose Iron Shell (Rosebud Sioux)  
Sonny Skye Hawk (Lakota/Shawnee/Otoe/Kiowa)  
Darcy Medicine Horse (Crow)

As a prelude to the NSU Alumni Powwow, the NSU Chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society presents a Northern Plains traditional dance demonstration. Featured dancers include NSU students who are not only active members of the NSU student body, but also very active in their tribal communities.

**NSU ALUMNI POWWOW: Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21**  
**Honoring Alumnus Archie Mason, Osage/Cherokee**  
**UC Ballroom**

**Friday: 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday: 3:00 p.m. – Midnight**

Powwow Head Staff

Head Man Dancer	Rod Pocowatchit, Pawnee/Shawnee/Comanche
Head Lady Dancer	Fawn White, Ponca/Keetoowah
Head Singer	Joel Deerinwater, Cherokee/Muscogee(Creek)
Master of Ceremonies	Kelly Anquoe, Kiowa/Cherokee
Arena Director	Charlie Soap, Cherokee
Host Color Guard	Cherokee Nation
Host Gourd	Robert Soontay, Apache/Kiowa