California Center for Native Nations

On September 19, 2006, the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Stephen Cullenberg, formally appointed Professor Clifford Trapez as Director of the California Center for Native Nations.

The Purpose of the Center for California Native Nations (CCNN) is to serve the research needs of the larger community by conducting original research and providing access to resources by and about Native Nations.

The Center acts as an organizing unit within the larger UC Riverside campus and provides both primary and secondary research for and about the Native Nations of California. The Center for California Native Nations will advance scholarly research focused on the rich and diverse Native American cultures. The Center will provide opportunities for research collaborations with Native peoples that will benefit tribal communities and expand scholarly research in the field of Native Nations.

The Center’s research provides policy makers with the tools of analysis to understand the revolutionary rates of change in Indian Country and helps tribal governments realize new opportunities for economic development and tribal government capacity building.

The UCR Center for California Native Nations will enhance the relationship between the tribes and the University by fostering programs of crucial importance to the Native populations and facilitating the expansion of knowledge of the diverse cultures in our region.

Exhibit offers glimpse of Apache traditions

Friday, May 5, 2006

MUSEUM: The festival is part of efforts to make Downtown Riverside an arts destination.

By Lys Mendez
The Press-Enterprise

Many dances and rituals are sacred to the American Indian culture. But those who took part in Thursday’s downtown Art Walk got a small glimpse into Apache traditions.

No camera or video was allowed to record it, but a ceremonial dance opened an art exhibit on the local Apache community at the Riverside Metropolitan Museum.

The exhibit aims to teach residents about a culture that is alive and well in the city, while respecting the sanctity of the customs, said Earl Sisto, Director of Native American Student Programs at UC Riverside.

“When we share something that is sacred to us, there is a gift that goes with that,” he said. “This allows us to show some of our traditional relics, and it even merges our traditions with contemporary art.”

The Apache Life, Spirit and Art exhibit will feature ceremonial dress, artistic hand-woven baskets and historical photos that highlight the cultural contributions of local Apache residents, said museum curator Maggie Zachow Wetherbee.

Riverside resident Lorene Sisquoc loaned photos that highlight three generations of Apache family members who have made Riverside home.

“We are a living culture, one that we want to keep alive,” said Sisquoc, curator for the Sherman Indian Museum. “This exhibit tells a little of our story.”

Many relics were left out of the exhibit because of their holy aspect, but the family heirlooms and artwork tell the story of an American Indian tribe that has roots in the city,” Sisto said.

“Look at what happened to tobacco,” he said. “We only use that after ceremony and with a prayer. Western-ers got a hold of it and now it kills so many people.”

Other holy traditions were displayed, such as the Apache ceremonial dance. It commemorates the unseen spirits to whom American Indians pray, but often gets misrepresented as a devil dance because of its masked dancers,” Sisto said.

The show allows the museum to merge city efforts to create an arts and culture center in the downtown area with museum goals of incorporating local communities into the exhibits, Wetherbee said.

“There are people who could have an Apache member as their next-door neighbor and not know anything of the culture,” she said.

The displays will be at the museum until February 2007 and features a documentary on several local prominent Apache members, as well as work of local artists.

Reach Lys Mendez at (951) 368-9583 lmendez@PE.com

O’odham protest military home invasions

Posted: August 18, 2006 by: Brenda Norrell / Indian Country Today

GU-VO DISTRICT, Tohono O’odham Nation, Ariz. - As the National Guard sets up observation posts on Tohono O’odham tribal land on the border, O’odham say homes are being invaded by U.S. Border Patrol agents and their peace of life has been destroyed.

“There is an invasion of our communities. You would not think this is America: it is a whole different world,” said Ofelia Rivas, founder of the O’odham Voice against the Wall, an O’odham human rights advocacy organization.

Rivas said O’odham living on the border live in fear of the ongoing home invasions and the resulting retaliation if they speak out against the Border Patrol or National Guard troops now preparing camps in their backyards.

“The armed guards invaded the small village of Ali Jegk on the Tohono O’odham Reservation. The community is under siege day and night by unmonitored heavily armed border patrols and other agents,” Rivas told Indian Country Today.

Ali Jegk, adjacent to the international border on tribal land, is 136 miles southwest of Tucson and borders the Organ Pipe National Monument.

Rivas described a recent incident in which a young O’odham man and his family were threatened with pepper spray if they did not get out of their Continued on Page 7
The 2006-07 school year has launched with a good start with the formal establishment of the California Center for Native Nations. Dr. Stephen Cullenberg, Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences appointed Clifford Trafzer, Professor, History Department to direct the Center. The establishment of the Center was one of the Native American Student Programs goals. Since 1990, time and efforts were contributed toward the creation of the center by the NASP staff.

The UCR Costco Chair is open. Official notice should be coming out soon. For more information on the Costos look on the web at www.nasp.ucr.edu linked American Indian Nations.

The 2006 Summer Residential Program: Gathering of the Tribes was so successful that some of the participants requested a two-week program next year. I would like to thank the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Pala Band of Mission Indians, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, and University of California American Indian Counselors/Recruiters Association for their contributions to support the summer program. Currently, efforts are being made to search for next year’s funding.

Last spring the American Indian Science and Engineering Chapter at UCR was reactivated with Jesus Rodriguez as Interim Chair. The Chapter members are looking forward to do various activities throughout the year.

This year, NASP staff will continue to be involved with outreach and Jesus Rodriguez will coordinate the admissions portion in efforts to bring in more students to UCR. Josh Gonzales will be doing various exciting activities including the 5K Run/Walk on November 5, 2006. In the early part of next year, he will do an American Indian Film Festival. And of course, the Medicine Ways Conference and Pow Wow will be in May 2007.

If you are interested in becoming involved or applying to UCR, contact us at NASP, (951) 827-4143, sisto@ucr.edu, or joshuag@ucr.edu.

Thank you,
Earl Dean Sisto, Director
Native American Student Programs

Are you an American Indian UCR Alumni?

Membership is available to any American Indian and Alaskan Native person who has graduated from the University of Riverside, California, or is a former student that has completed at least 12 quarter units before leaving the University of Riverside, California.

Associate Membership is available to any person who supports the purposes and goals of the organization.

Contact us
American Indian Alumni Association
c/o Native American Student Programs
224 Costco Hall
Riverside, Ca. 92521
951-827-4143
Email: aiaauc@yahoo.com
(AIAA General mailing)
Email: admin@ai-aa.org (AIAA Board members)
A Big

Thank You

Goes To All Our Supporters

of the

2006

Summer Residential Program:

“Gathering of the Tribes”

The Gathering of the Tribes Summer Residential Program was a huge success this past summer!!! Many of the students learned a tremendous amount from the motivational speakers and in all their classes. The participants had so much fun that many of them wanted next year’s program to be 2 weeks long. With the funding from the local Southern California Indian Tribes, our summer program was able give the students an experience of a lifetime.
John Smith, a guest speaker at the SRP, motivated students and encouraged them to plan ahead. He informed them about the A-G requirements.

This group really got themselves in a twist. “Let’s go people, work together.”

They were once shy; now they not. Sharon and both Sabrinas having fun during the ice-breakers.

Al Gonzales, the Webmaster, showed the students how to build web pages from scratch using html code. Many students had fun.

Cuauhtemoc Figueroa got the students to write creatively about what Identity meant to them. A lot of the students really grasped the concept.

The students had a great time during the ice-breakers laughing it up and getting to know everyone.

Sharon Johnson, Davetta Jo Hawk, and Michael Avila helped their team win some points during the Volleyball tournament.

Alyssa watches Blossom show her how to weave a basket. The students had so much fun that some of them made more than one basket.

The students and RA’s had fun during one of the ice-breakers. This was one of their favorites. They liked it so much, they played for an hour.

Zero, member of the conscious hip hop group El Vuh, offers some knowledge and wisdom to the youth.

The students got the hang of basket weaving pretty quick. All of the baskets came out really nice.

Lavine John back peddles during a volleyball game, while Sabrina awaits to spike the ball. All the teams were really competitive.
Leona John just scored a basket for her team during the basketball tournament.

The Gathering of the Tribes SRP Staff enjoying their food at Griffith Park. Left -Right: Kathy, Davetta, Jesus, Beyaja, JJ, and Dario.

Above: Berdina Talnagi received a pendelton for the Most Outstanding Female. Below: Daniel Carr received a pendelton for the Most Outstanding Male. Both did a wonderful job and were helpful throughout the program.

Robert Perez shows a map of Southern California, and lectured on some of the history of Southern California Indians.

The students pose after a fun filled day of touring the Gene Autry Museum and attending the Annual Southern California Indian Center Pow Wow.

Students participate in the Round Dance during the Regalia Presentation. Everyone got the chance to show off their two-step.
Huntington Library Database Tells the Stories of 100,000 Mission Indians

The computerized repository is available to the public.

By Larry Gordon
Times Staff Writer

August 8, 2006

Reclaiming a neglected part of California’s past, historians Monday unveiled an immense data bank that for the first time chronicles the lives and deaths of more than 100,000 Indians in the Spanish missions of the 18th and 19th centuries.

In an eight-year effort, researchers at the Huntington Library in San Marino used handwritten records of baptisms, marriages and deaths at 21 Catholic missions and two other sites from between 1769 and 1850 and created a cross-referenced computerized repository that is now open to public access.

The project, which cost $650,000, used records mainly taken from microfilm of the originals. They overwhelmingly concern Indians in the coastal regions from the San Diego to Marin County areas, perhaps as many as half of the Indians within the current state borders. Some Spanish soldiers and Mexican settlers are included through the turbulent times of Mexico’s independence from Spain in 1821 and California U.S. statehood in 1850.

There are some gaps in the documents as the missions declined, the Franciscans were stripped of their authority and Indians revolted. After the San Diego mission was burned down in an insurrection in 1775, the priests re-created the logs from memory, Hackel said.

Still, the Franciscans remained good record-keepers. They assigned numbers to each baptism and carefully noted parents and godparents, village of origin, ethnic background and trades. As a result, many people can be traced with astonishing specifics through life and, with computer links, their progeny.

For example, a 2-day-old Indian boy, given the name Franciso, was baptized Aug. 11, 1786, at Mission San Diego, the project shows. The information links to his marriage at 18 to a woman named Maria Loreta, also 18 (a spinster by that era’s customs) and her death five years later with no children.

Francisco married again the next year to Antonina, who died childless 10 months later. He married a third time, to Thomasa (she was 13 and he was 26) and had a baby girl, Ynes, who died at 6 months. Francisco died April 4, 1817, apparently held in high regard by the Franciscans because he was given a deathbed communion, not just anointing.

Thomasa married twice more and had 10 more children, two of whom are recorded as dying in infancy.

The database does not offer judgments on the long debates about whether the Franciscans forced Indians into the missions and treated them brutally or whether Father Junipero Serra, founder of the California mission system, deserves to be, as he is now, just one step from sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church.

However, it does document the Franciscans’ obsessions with converting Indians to Catholicism and its bans on polygamy and illegitimacy. And, death by death, it shows an extraordinarily high mortality rate as Indians became exposed to European diseases such as measles, influenza and smallpox.

“People who think the missions were places of cultural genocide and terrible population decline can look at this database, and they’ll see that people came into the missions and died soon after,” said Hackel, a history professor at Oregon State University. “People who want to see something else in the missions can look here too. It also shows tremendous Indian persistence and attempts to maintain their own communities within the missions.”

The public can gain access to the database through an Internet link at http://www.huntington.org. Conducting searches on the site can be complicated at first because of the many choices involved.

The raw records can be difficult to read, interpret and put into context, he added.

The project involved eye-straining work that took the equivalent of between two and four full-time employees since 1999. Their job was to take hundreds of thousands of bits of information from the microfilm of sometimes damaged and illegible mission books and put them into easy-to-read computer formats.

The raw records can be difficult to read, interpret and put into context, he added.

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Anne Marie Reid, the inputting team leader, recalled feeling ill sometimes after long days staring at dark microfilm in Spanish and Latin and entering names and dates into computer logs.

But she said she also gained a feeling of fellowship with the Indians and priests as she recognized their names in various references. “You come to know these people,” she said recently in her small workroom with consoles and screens.

In all, statistics were gleaned on an estimated 120,000 people, including some with incomplete records and some mentioned just once as a parent.

Included are about 101,000 baptisms, 28,000 marriages and 71,000 burials at all 21 missions and from the Los Angeles Plaza Church and the Santa Barbara Presidio.

Partly because of the size, the project experienced some delays this summer because of software glitches.

The Huntington has a few original and very valuable mission records, including a page in Serra’s very legible hand about three baptisms on Dec. 1, 1783, at Mission San Luis Obispo. Missions and other Catholic archives hold most of the surviving books but usually allow scholars to see only microfilm copies, some made 50 years ago.

Among the institutions lending microfilm for the project were the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library, the archdioceses of San Francisco and Los Angeles, and Santa Clara University. John R. Johnson, curator of anthropology for the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, and Randall Milliken, a Davis-based anthropologist and mission expert, helped with planning.

Anthony Morales, tribal chair and chief of the Gabrieleno/Tongva Band of Mission Indians of San Gabriel, said he thought the project would “really catch the interest of all kinds of people like educators and researchers and just average folks who are interested in their families.”

Some people, he said, will search for evidence of brutality in the mission system such as forced conversions and labor, while others will look for a more positive picture, such as “what did happen after my great-great-grandmother got converted and baptized.”

Robert Senkewicz, a Santa Clara University historian who is an expert on early California, said the accessibility of the database is its “great virtue.”

“It will make genealogists feel like they died and went to heaven,” he said.
Continued from Front Page
O’odham Protest

vehicle. The family, including an infant, was traveling to the funeral of their father and uncle.

“They were told to abandon their vehicle and walk more than 25 miles to their community. The young man was taken into custody under bogus charges. An encounter with the tribal police and the Border Patrol forced the release of the young man,” Rivas said.

Currently, O’odham elderly, who normally sleep outside their adobe homes in summer because of the heat, now have to sleep indoors.

“They are forced to sleep in their homes at night because the Border Patrol is out there walking around and shining their spotlights on them. There is no peace at all,” Rivas said.

Rivas said that recently, Border Patrol agents climbed on top of their patrol units and watched O’odham elderly gathering saguaro fruits during the traditional cactus fruit harvest.

“They feel like they are under a microscope.”

Gustavo Soto, spokesman for the Tucson Sector of the Border Patrol, told ICT that the agency takes these allegations seriously.

“There are a lot of allegations against our agency doing inappropriate activities,” Soto said. However, he said the Border Patrol is monitored by the Office of the Inspector General and Office of Personnel Responsibility. There are also internal special investigation teams, he said.

Soto said he was not familiar with specific allegations coming from the Ali Jegk community, but that the Border Patrol encourages O’odham to make formal complaints to the agency. He said each formal complaint is investigated and a Border Patrol community representative is assigned to follow up.

Tohono O’odham Chairwoman Vivian Juan-Saunders said she was not aware of complaints of Border Patrol agents in the Ali Jegk community. Juan-Saunders said she asked Gu’Vo District leaders if they had received reports of allegations from the community and none had been received.

“Until community members bring these issues to the attention of either the community, district council, Legislative Council Domestic Affairs Committee, the Legislative Council or to my attention, we can’t address these issues,” Juan-Saunders said.

Juan-Saunders said, however, the Tohono O’odham Nation receives complaints from both sides concerning the Border Patrol, including O’odham who question where border agents are?, when illegal entrants invade O’odham homes?.

Juan-Saunders said the nation encourages O’odham to file complaints when their rights are violated. She also said the nation has informed the Border Patrol of the tribe’s sovereign status.

“They need to respect the rights of the nation as well,” Juan-Saunders told ICT.

However, Rivas said O’odham families are harassed and spotlighted in their homes at night.

Rivas said a family of eight was awakened at 4:45 a.m. by armed Border Patrol agents who stated that footprints from the border led to their home. The family consists of a grandmother, two daughters and five grandchildren. The O’odham children were questioned if they were from Mexico.

“The young mother was spotlighted in her bed while she was nursing her infant. This is the third invasion of their home in the past two months. In this home invasion, the invaders did not identify themselves. The family is constantly under watch; the Border Patrol constantly drives by their yard, spotlighting and watch from the roadside.”

Rivas said another young family with two small children was awakened by four heavily armed Border Patrol agents at their door. The family was accused of harboring undocumented Mexicans and possibly hiding drugs. Two agents went through-out the house while two other agents guarded the entrance to the home.

In another incident, an O’odham man in his 50s and his brother were stopped while traveling from his community along the border.

“He was threatened”; they said they would smash his windshield if he didn’t open his window completely. He was accused of being a drug trafficker.

“After they were released, the U.S. Border Patrol agents were yelling the stereotypical ‘Indian war yells,’” Rivas said.

Rivas said one Ajo Sector Border Patrol agent stated to an O’odham man, “You Indians think you have sovereign powers; we are the authority here. We have more authority than the tribal police.”

Soto, given a copy of the allegations in the Ali Jegk community, said it would be necessary for the Border Patrol to have the names and information on each incident in order to investigate. He said it is important for O’odham to write down the license plate numbers of the Border Patrol agents allegedly carrying out inappropriate activities so specific agents could be investigated.

The number to report abuses is (877) USBPHELP, and the help line is available around the clock, he said.

“We immediately take these matters very seriously,” Soto said, pointing out that spotlighting into homes is one offense that is investigated when reported.

Rivas, however, pointed out that O’odham who do complain and make their names public become targeted and victimized by agents, especially in the isolated area of Ali Jegk.

“There is absolutely nothing out there to protect them, there is no one advocating for them,” Rivas said.

Responding to ongoing criticisms of the Border Patrol by indigenous at the border, Soto said Border Patrol agents receive cultural sensitivity training during their initial training at the Border Patrol Academy. Then, agents receive annual cultural sensitivity trainings in individual sectors, including the Tucson, Ajo and Casa Grande Border Patrol sectors in southern Arizona.

Rivas and other indigenous border rights activists said the cultural sensitivity training that Border Patrol agents receive is obviously not enough.

Jose Matus, Yaqui and director of the Indigenous Alliance Without Borders, said that when he recently crossed the border in Arizona, a Border Patrol agent told him that he had never heard of the Yaqui people.

Soto said the cultural sensitivity training focuses on “American Indians” and is not specific for individual tribes. He said the cultural sensitivity training is multi-faceted and includes Irish-Americans and various ethnic groups.

AMERICAN INDIAN GRADUATE CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Albuquerque, NM (August 7, 2006)

The American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC) Board of Directors announced today the restructuring of the organization to continue its current and future growth. Louis Baca (Santa Clara Pueblo/Tewa) has been appointed as Interim Executive Director, replacing former Executive Director Norbert Hill (Oneida). After six years as Executive Director, Hill is leaving AIGC in pursuit of other opportunities. "We will miss Norbert and all of his contributions," states Shenea Atcitty, President of the AIGC Board. "We wish him the best in his new endeavors."

AIGC provides scholarships to American Indian and Alaska Native students pursuing post-baccalaureate degrees in all fields of study. Founded in 1969 by John Rainer (Taos Pueblo) and Robert Bennett (Oneida), AIGC was the nation’s first scholarship program specifically designed to provide American Indians with funds to attend graduate school. The Center has grown from providing a handful of graduate fellowships in its first year over 1100 fellowships in the 2005-2006 academic year to students representing hundreds of tribes across the nation.

In 2001, Hill was instrumental in helping establish AIGC Scholars, Inc., which is the Gates Millennium Scholarship Program (GMSP) partner for American Indian and Alaska Natives. The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) administers the GMSP on behalf of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The goal of the program is to promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for thousands of outstanding minority students with significant financial need to reach their fullest potential.

Now in its sixth year of operation, the Gates Millennium Scholarship Program has provided over 900 American Indian and Alaska Native students with an opportunity to pursue a college degree that they might not have been able to afford through other means. Gates Millennium Scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors and GED recipients based on leadership, community service, and significant financial need. “As we have grown to become the largest provider of scholarships to American Indians and Alaska Natives in the country, we continue to be approached...
by private donors to administer scholarship programs on behalf of individuals and corporations,” stated Atcitty. AIGC receives scholarship funds from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and administers scholarships established by companies such as Wells Fargo and Accenture. AIGC also sponsors the Tommy Hilfiger All Native American High School Academic Team and other programs designed to encourage promising Native students to pursue higher education. The All Academic students will be honored at AIGC’s Second Annual Conference slated for September 22-23, 2006, at the Sandia Pueblo Resort and Casino in Albuquerque, NM.

The conference will be headlined by a keynote speech from Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell and will feature workshops and seminars headed by noted American Indian and Alaska Native scholars, authors, business and tribal leaders. The American Indian Professional Association (AIPA), an organization of business professionals, some of whom were once graduate scholarship recipients, is co-sponsoring the event. The other co-sponsor is the AIGC Council of 100, which is an honor forum of distinguished American Indian scholars, leaders, and traditionalists selected to impart leadership skills, academic advisement and cultural guidance to scholarship recipients.

The American Indian Graduate Center and the American Indian Graduate Center Scholars Inc. are non-profit scholarship programs based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. For information about AIGC, AIGCS, or about becoming a donor, please contact Ric Armstrong, Director of Development, 1800-628-1920 or visit www.aigcs.org.

**Calendar of Events**

**October 26, 2006**
End Dependence Tour
Olmeca featuring El Vuh
University of California, Riverside, CA 92521
(951) 827-4143
joshuag@ucr.edu

**October 28th, 2006**
3rd Annual Native American “Circle of Harmony” Benefit Concert
Poway Center for the Performing Arts
15498 Espola Road
Poway, CA
Hours: 7pm - 10pm, tickets $25-$100
Box office Number: (818) 748-0505
Online: www.powwayperformingarts.com

**November 3, 2006**
College Information Day
University of California, Riverside, CA 92521
(951) 827-4143
joshuag@ucr.edu

**November 4, 2006**
Keepers of the Language Conference
University of California, Riverside, CA 92521
victoria.bomber@ucr.edu

**November 5, 2006**
Spirit of the Tribes 5K Run/Walk
University of California, Riverside, CA 92521
(951) 827-4143
joshuag@ucr.edu

**November 8, 2006**
Comedian Charlie Hill
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(951) 827-4143
joshuag@ucr.edu

**November 11th - 12th, 2006**
CSUN Powwow
Cal State University Northridge
18111 Nordoff Street
Northridge, CA
Info (818) 677-3920 or (818) 677-7315
email: aisacsun@yahoo.com

**November 13th - 15th, 2006**
3rd Annual Red Nation Film Festival
Egyptian Theater
6712 Hollywood Blvd
Los Angeles, CA
www.rednation.com or (818) 904-9256

**November 17, 2006**
UC/CSU American Indian Collaboration Meeting
University of California, Riverside, CA 92521
(951) 827-4143
sisto@ucr.edu

**November 18, 2006**
Native Hawaiians Conference
University of California, Riverside, CA 92521
(951) 827-4143
joshuag@ucr.edu

**November 18th - 19th, 2006**
7th Annual Healing the Earth Powwow
Cal Poly Pomona Center Quad
3801 W Temple Ave
Pomona, CA
Info: (909) 869-6877

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**Indian Times**

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