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**41ST ANNUAL
MEDICINE WAYS CONFERENCE**
SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE



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41ST ANNUAL MEDICINE WAYS CONFERENCE

Indigenous Futurism

9:00 - 9:50 (SSC Lobby/MPR)

- *Registration and Breakfast*

10:00 – 11:00 (MPR)

- *Welcome, Blessing, & Birdsongs*
 - *NASP & NASA, Michael & Will Madrigal, Ms. UCR Powwow Princess*

11:15 – 12:00 (SSC 329)

- *Keynote - Remembering and Imagining, Ancestors & Descendants: Speculative Fiction and Indigenous Epistemologies*
 - *Professor Wallace Cleaves*

12:10 – 1:10 (SSC 335)

- *Back to the Soil: Indigenous Ag-Tech and Science*
 - *Natalie Solares & Nic Rajen*

1:25 – 2:25 (SSC 235)

- *SkoBots: Language Revitalization Robotics*
 - *Danielle Boyer*

2:30 – 3:30 (MPR)

- *Lunch & Closing*



For over four decades, UCR's Native American Student Association and Native American Student Programs have hosted the annual Medicine Ways Conference. Each year the theme has changed to reflect the times, with the students of NASA leading the way. The theme this year was selected to be *Indigenous Futurism* which encompasses a diverse range of perspectives and approaches. As such we asked our students how they envision the future of Indigenous peoples. Please take a moment to hear a few of the student voices that led to this year's theme:

Indigenous futurism is utilizing historically oppressive spaces such as academia, not only to learn, but to exist beyond learning; to succeed for our families and communities despite all odds. Native futurism to me is speaking our truths in our stories of survival through any and all mediums. Whether it be as artists, activists, engineers, linguists, botanists, traditional singers or dancers, Native peoples will continue to prevail in good relations with each other because the prophecy of futurism has always been indigenous truth.

▶◀ -Summer Paa'ila Herrera (NAHS Member - Undergraduate) ▶◀

Indigenous languages will continue to be heard and shared within our communities and with the wider world. Indigenous ecological knowledge and world views will be continually brought forward to meet the challenges of human caused climate change. In this way, the teachings and wisdom of our elders will be kept present in the coming generations.

▶◀ -Michael Madrigal (GAIA member - Graduate Student) ▶◀

I envision more recognition for Native peoples, and school systems that work with tribes to have proper information. School systems should work with the local tribe(s) and the land they are on. Another hope of mine is to see proper representation for every Native regardless of their occupation in order to demonstrate the importance of Natives obtaining higher education.

▶◀ -Citlaly Ortega (NASP Student - Undergraduate) ▶◀

As Native peoples continue to move forward, it is important to look back to where we come from. I believe future representation in education and media will allow for the next generations of Native youth to be exposed to and learn their own history, songs, and cultures.

▶◀ -Nogwa Howard Smith (AISES Co-President - Undergraduate) ▶◀

People always praise Star Trek for being so diverse, but where are the Native people? Our stories told in media are always about the sad Indian, but never about Natives being Native. I love Sci-fi and I think Natives should be able to see themselves in the future or traveling the cosmos.

▶◀ -Kat Warren (NASA Chair - Undergraduate) ▶◀

Solidarity, cooperation, and protecting Mother Earth is the future for Indigenous Peoples!

▶◀ -Jorge Ruiz (NASA Treasurer - Undergraduate) ▶◀

INDIGENOUS



FUTURAE

A word on this year's illustration:

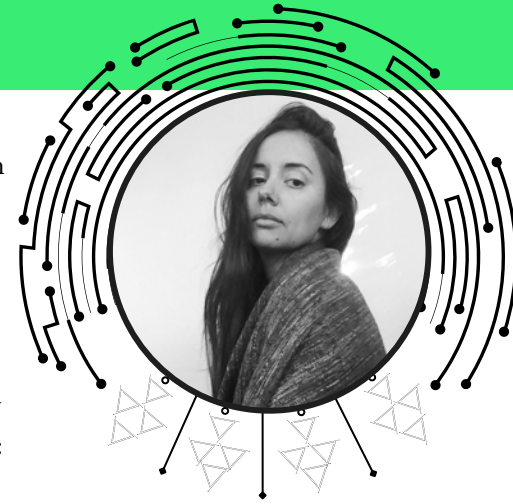
For this year's Medicine Ways piece, I was given the theme of 'Native futurisms'. I am familiar with the work of Grace Dillon in coining the concept of Indigenous Futurisms to "envision Native futures, Indigenous hopes, and dreams recovered by rethinking the past in a new framework" and wanted to apply those thoughts to new piece of art.

Having been greatly inspired by the manga works of Masamune Shirow and his cyborg epic of "Ghost in the Shell", dealing with the ethics and usage of artificial intelligence and the concept of existence, I wanted to explore similar themes reflecting my Tongva heritage. My piece is an homage to my favorite sci-fi artists and authors who have explored these science fiction truths that are gradually coming into our lives through technological advancements. What do we know about our pasts, our creation myths and stories that inform the world we will encounter in the future? How did our ancestors vast knowledge surpass what we are collectively trying to gather in the present? We are made of stars and will return to stars. Our past is our future, and our present reflects both worlds.

Illustrator **WESHOTYOT ALVITRE**

*Tongva
(She/Her)*

Weshoyot Alvitre is a female author and illustrator from the Tongva tribe of Southern California. She currently resides with her husband and two children on Ventureno Chumash Territory in Ventura, California. Her work focuses on an Indigenous lens and voice on projects from children's books to adult market graphic novels. She has recently been published as artist in "GHOSTRIVER: The Fall and Rise of the Conestoga" graphic novel from Red Planet Books, ABQ. in collaboration with the Library Company of Philadelphia; "At The Mountains Base" written by Traci Sorell, Kokila; and was Art Director on the video game "When Rivers Were Trails". She enjoys spinning yarn and collecting antiques.



For more information:
FB, IG, & Twitter: @weshoyot
www.weshoyot.com

Cahuilla Birdsinger **WILL MADRIGAL** *Cahuilla Band of Indians*

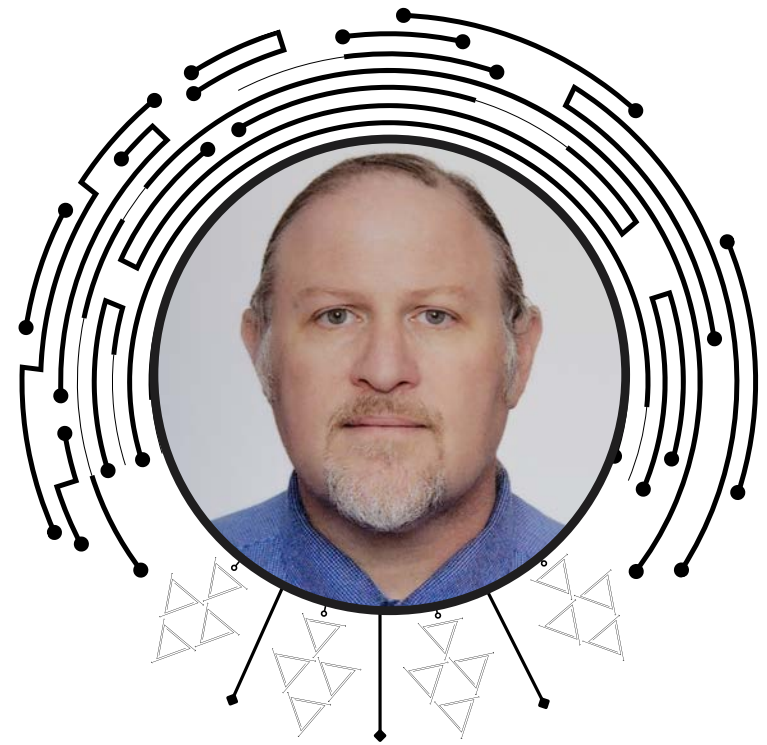
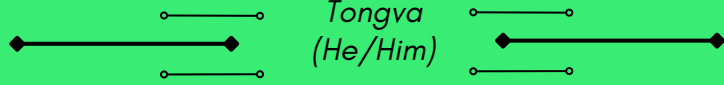
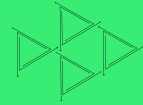
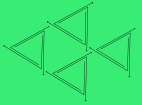
Will Madrigal and fellow Birdsingers will open the day after the blessing with Cahuilla songs, welcoming our students, staff, faculty, honored guests and attendees to these homelands of the Cahuilla, Tongva, Serrano, and Luiseño peoples.



REMEMBERING AND IMAGINING,
ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS:
SPECULATIVE FICTION AND INDIGENOUS
EPISTEMOLOGIES

PROFESSOR WALLACE CLEAVES

Tongva
(He/Him)



Wallace Cleaves will discuss the history and contemporary landscape of Indigenous speculative fiction, concentrating on representation in the field and the challenges the genre continues to face. His presentation will include reflections on his own familial connections, charting his grandfather's unsuccessful attempts to publish in the "Golden Age" of science fiction, and a brief reading from his own Pushcart nominated co-authored work, "A Parable of Things that Crawl and Fly" in PULP Literature, which includes Tongva characters, cultural references, and language drawn from his own heritage. He will also discuss the problematic appropriation of Indigeneity in the genre contrasted with the dynamic flourishing of "Indigenerd" culture.



Wallace Cleaves is an Associate Professor of Teaching, Director of the California Center for Native Nations, and Associate Director in the University Writing Program at the University of California at Riverside.

His main responsibilities include First Year Writing and the TA development program and running the year long series of teaching practicum courses for new instructors in the writing program. His PhD is in Medieval English Literature, and he has taught courses in Medieval, Renaissance and Native American literature at Pomona College in Claremont at Cal State Fullerton and at UC Riverside.

He is a member of the Gabrieleno/Tongva Native American tribe, the Indigenous peoples of the Los Angeles area, and has served in a variety of positions on the Tribal Council, on the board of the Kuruvungna Springs Foundation, and is currently the president of the Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy, a non-profit organization with an entirely Tongva board dedicated to cultural preservation and stewardship of land returned to the community. Recent publications include: the 13th edition of St. Martin's Guide to Writing, "Mission Project: Activism on a Smaller Scale" in World Literature Today, a Bloomberg CityLab article entitled "Native Land Acknowledgments Are Not the Same As Land" with fellow Tongva Tribal member Charlie Sepulveda, a pushcart nominated coauthored work of Indigenous speculative fiction titled "A Parable of Things that Crawl and Fly" in Pulp Literature, and the essay "From Monmouth to Madoc to Māori: The Myth of Medieval Colonization and an Indigenous Alternative" in the Indigenous Futures and Medieval Pasts issue of English Language Notes.

BACK TO THE SOIL: INDIGENOUS AG-TECH AND SCIENCE

NATALIE SOLARES, & NIC RAJEN

*Zapotec, & Dine/Oneida
(She/Her, & He/They)*

Introduction to the Intertribal Agriculture Council and discussion on Indigenous Agriculture systems of the past, present and future.



Natalie Solares' maternal lineage is Zapotec from the Valleys of Oaxaca, Mexico, and paternal lineage from Guatemala and comes from a line of subsistence farmers. In 2013 she received her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences from the University of California at Berkeley and her Master's in Plant Pathology from the University of California at Riverside in 2019. Natalie Solares has experience in the agriculture field as a research associate on large-scale agriculture production and technical assistance provider for berries and vegetable farmers in California. Her work focused on soil health, systems-based approaches for achieving disease suppressive soils, improving water quality, irrigation management, and nutrient management. Natalie has worked in supporting small-scale farmers during her time at the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County and at the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources. She began her role as the Technical Assistance Specialist for the Pacific Region in the fall of 2021 and is passionate about Indigenous food sovereignty, traditional ecological knowledge, and supporting community lead projects to restore native lands.



Nicholas Rajen's background of study comes from physics and materials science, and his work over the past 5 years ties directly into resource conservation, agroforestry, and organic-sustainable farming. He is inspired by and learned a great deal about Cultural-Rx burning from the Amah Mutsun Land Trust, and organic, desert farming from the Augustine Cahuilla and their Temalpakh Farm. He is learning about complex soil systems, and water cycle maintenance through soil health, and look forward to support Tribal regenerative agriculture and agroforestry initiatives. Nic's work is dedicated to inspiring and empowering Native communities and youth in the STEM+MAP (medicine, art and psychology) fields, and applying Indigenous science and knowledge towards solving complex problems - especially in regards to healing Temalpax through environmental-agriculture science

SKOBOTS: **LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION ROBOTICS**

DANIELLE BOYER

*Ojibwe (Enrolled Citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe)
(She/Her/Hers)*

Learn from Ojibwe youth robotics inventor Danielle Boyer, where she will share her expertise on the design and creation of SkoBots, wearable robots that utilize 3D printing technology and speak Indigenous languages. Discover how these robots are empowering Indigenous youth with free access to language revitalization resources. We will delve into the innovative intersection of robotics and Indigenous education, inspiring attendees to harness technology for social good.



Danielle Boyer (Ojibwe) is a 22-year-old robotics inventor and advocate for youth who has been teaching kids since she was ten. Driven by her families own inability to afford science and technology education, she is passionate about making education accessible and representative for her community so that no child is left behind. Danielle creates equitable and innovative learning solutions for Indigenous youths with robots that she designs, manufactures, and gives away for free. In 2019, she created The STEAM Connection, a minority and youth-led charity that has reached 600k+ youths with technical education with an emphasis on language revitalization. The STEAM Connection focuses on the future: ushering in a new age of education via personal and wearable robotics, artificial intelligence systems, and augmented reality. Informed by the past and present, The STEAM Connection utilizes traditional knowledge to uplift and protect Indigenous communities with an emphasis on language.

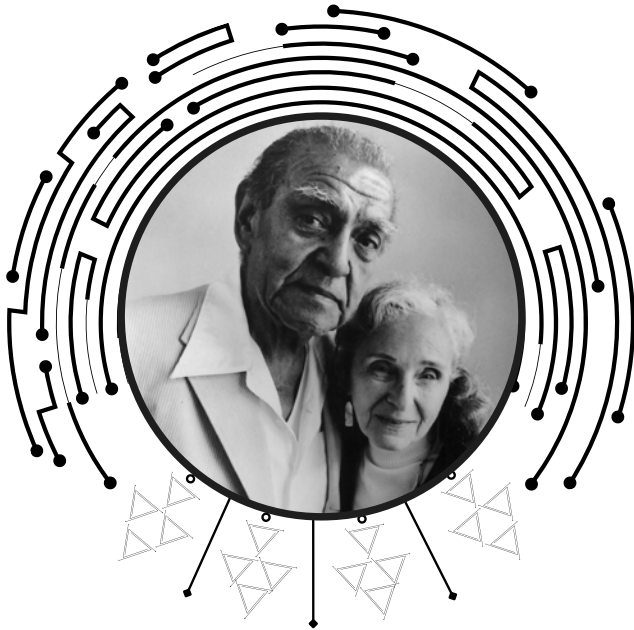


Danielle has been named one of PEOPLE Magazine's Girls Changing the World, a MIT Solve Indigenous Communities Fellow, a L'oreal Paris Woman of Worth, a Teen Vogue Indigenous Youth Changemaker, and a Verizon Forward for Good Winner. She is currently resides between both Southern California and Michigan

[For more information on Danielle and her work at:](https://www.steamconnection.org)

[HTTPS://WWW.STEAMCONNECTION.ORG](https://www.steamconnection.org)

UCR Land Acknowledgment



Rupert (Cahuilla) & Jeannette Henry Costo (Cherokee)

"We at UCR would like to respectfully acknowledge and recognize our responsibility to the original and current caretakers of this land, water, and air: the Cahuilla [ka-wee-ahh], Tongva [tong-va], Luiseño [loo-say-ngo], and Serrano [se-ran-oh] peoples and all of their ancestors and descendants, past, present, and future. Today this meeting place is home to many Indigenous peoples from all over the world, including UCR faculty, students, and staff, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these homelands."

Native American Student Programs (NASP) was formed in 1980, making UC Riverside the first UC campus to open an office with a full-time staff dedicated to American Indian student support.

One of nine Ethnic & Gender Offices located in Costo Hall; named in honor of Rupert (Cahuilla) & Jeannette Henry Costo (Cherokee). Rupert Costo was a key player in the foundation and establishment of UC Riverside.

Native American Student Association



Native American Student Association (NASA) consists of students from various Native American communities throughout the United States and from other diverse backgrounds. In addition, NASA also represents Indigenous communities from Mexico, Canada, and other areas of the Americas. These students are dedicated to establishing strong ties with neighboring Native American communities in order to increase the representation of Native American students at UCR. NASA provides a rich cultural environment through which Native American students on campus can prosper. NASA coordinates and sponsors various programs throughout the school year, with the Medicine Ways Conference being one of their principal events.

Native American Student Programs



Native American Student Programs (NASP) office is to provide educational, cultural, and social support for UCR students, specifically for Native American/American Indian Students. The NASP office coordinates a variety of activities and programs designed to expand education awareness for our UCR campus as well as the local communities. Additionally, NASP encourages the development and enhancement of leadership and interpersonal communication skills through active participation of students, which makes it possible to plan, organize, and implement innovative programs that promote and educate the campus community about the uniqueness of Indigenous Peoples.

MS. UCR POWWOW PRINCESS

KIARA LOVE FLORES

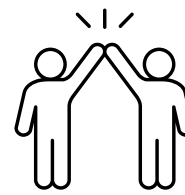
Kuupangaxwichem/Northern Ute
(She/Her)



Miyaxwe/Hello,

My name is Kiara Love Flores and I come to you from the Pala Indian Reservation in Southern California. I am Kuupangaxwichem/Cupeno and Northern Ute. In my twenty one years of life, I have been dancing since I've learned to walk. These styles include the Jingle Dress, Fancy Shawl, and Bird Dancing all taught to me by my Mother. Dancing has always had the biggest impact on my life and has led me to the path I'm on now. Currently I attend California State University, soon to receive my Bachelors in Native Studies with a concentration in Arts & Humanities. Working closely with Native communities has always been a part of me, especially with bringing light to Native issues like Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Native Education, and Native Erasure within education. I currently hold the title of Ms. University of California Riverside 2022/2023, and have traveled all across turtle island representing my title.

Ichaam/Thank You



UC RIVERSIDE
POWWOW
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



The Native American Student Association and Native American Student Programs Present:

40th Annual UC RIVERSIDE POW WOV

Riverside Sports Complex
1000 W. Blaine St.
Riverside, CA 92507

Saturday, May 27, 2023
11:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Grand Entry 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Friday, May 26, 2023
5:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Grand Entry 7:00 PM

Sunday, May 28, 2023
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Grand Entry 1:00 PM



HEAD STAFF:

MC: JACKSON ROLLINGTHUNDER TAHUKA

AD: VICTOR CHAVEZ

HEAD WOMAN: AURORA TOLEDO

HEAD MAN: ZION FOX

HEAD GIRL: JOCELYN PHOENIX

HEAD BOY: WAVOKA MARTINEZ

HOST NORTHERN DRUM: RED HOOP

HOST SOUTHERN DRUM: HALE AND CO.

OUTGOING MS. UCR POW WOV PRINCESS (2022-2023): KIARA LOVE FLORES

ALL DRUMS, DANCERS, BIRDSINGERS WELCOME!

*MS. UCR POWWOW PAGEANT 2023-2024

*CAHUILLA BIRDSINGERS

*KALPULLI TEUXIHUITL

*FREE ADMISSION

*FREE PARKING

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