WVU Native American Studies celebrates
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH --- November 2020
Please join us for this thought-provoking series and enhance your appreciation of Native America.

SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 7PM --- Film Discussion

RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked the World

“They tried to ban, censor and erase Indian culture from rock and roll history but Native American influence is wrapped into modern music’s DNA. RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked the World is an electric look at Native American influence in popular music, going deep into the Indigenous foundations of rock.”

PBS, Independent Lens

Image at left from Record Hunter, October 1990; below: Cree artist buffy Saint-Marie 1971 album cover

NAS & the Organization for Native American Interests (ONAI) host a virtual discussion of the documentary film “RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked the World.” NAS instructor Bob Pirner, member of the Ironwood Singers traditional Lakota Drum and a former musical performer, shares audio samplings illustrating the wide range of Indigenous influences on the American music genres we know and love.

Link to Film Trailer: https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/videos/rumble-the-indians-who-rocked-the-world-trailer/

SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 7PM ZOOM Discussion LINK:
https://wvu.zoom.us/j/92156543645?pwd=RWRLUFJsbnp6Zy9sdGFySU1Oamtjdz09

Meeting ID: 921 5654 3645  Password: NAHM2020

Watch the film at your own convenience, then join us at 7PM Sunday evening for an exciting virtual discussion! Click here for film (running time = 85 min.): https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/videos/rumble/

For more info: https://nas.wvu.edu/ or email NAS Program Coord. BonnieM.Brown@mail.wvu.edu
AMÁ, the untold story of the involuntary sterilization of Native American women by Indian Health Service well into the 1970s.

“...This film is so important because these stories need to be heard [from our narrative] – this is the untold history of Native America. Indigenous people hold an intimate knowledge that our women are sacred – we carry life, and the very act of pregnancy is an assertion of sovereignty and resilience. AMÁ seeks to reaffirm our history so that we can continue to center our women. [We] hope this film begins a critical conversation about breaking cycles of violence that have affected our women for far too long.” Angel Charley, Interim Exec. Dir., Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women

NAS hosts a virtual screening and discussion of AMÁ --this Bullfrog Films documentary details the mistreatment and genocidal acts against Native women patients in Indian Health Services facilities. Moderated by NAS Coord. Bonnie Brown, joined by WVU Students for Reproductive Justice.

Background & Film Trailer: https://ama.bullfrogcommunities.com/

MONDAY NOV. 16, 6PM ZOOM LINK:
https://wvu.zoom.us/j/9830747032?pwd=Y0FQWGhlYjZUUmlVYUc1dEFvNXdudz09

Meeting ID: 983 074 7032  Password: RIGHTS4!

Join us via ZOOM at 6PM Monday for the film orientation. The login and password for the AMA’ film screening will then be shared. Afterward we’ll regroup to talk about the powerful stories these amazing Native American women have shared.

For more info: https://nas.wvu.edu/ or email NAS Program Coord. BonnieM.Brown@mail.wvu.edu
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, Noon-1PM --- “THUNDERSTRUCK” Virtual Tour, Minneapolis Institute of Art,

Featuring works by the late Native American Studies associate and Chairman, WVU Dept. of Art

The Start of the American Holocaust, 2001, Oil on canvas, Art Museum of West Virginia University.

Urban Stanley Couch

Wednesday, Nov. 18, noon-1pm: “Thunderstruck: Artwork that stops you in your tracks,” a virtual exhibit tour of the Minneapolis Institute of Art featuring the artwork of former NAS committee member and instructor Urban Couch (Cherokee descent). This special event promises to be an enlightening, inspiring tour of works created by our very gifted late colleague.

Our docent for the virtual tour is Kay Miller. Ms. Miller has been a docent at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia), for 11 years. Prior to serving at Mia she was a journalist for 31 years, 29 of them as a writer and editor for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. She holds a Master’s Degree in Print Journalism from American University in Washington, D.C.

ZOOM link to virtual tour: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81941021522?pwd=UVB1eTNnWmNyRSt1MDFvOFptdjRGQT09

Meeting ID: 819 4102 1522   Passcode: 238969

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Thursday, Nov. 19, 5:30 pm: discussion of film “100 years: One woman’s fight for justice” the Elouise Cobell story, featuring Christopher Chaney, NAS instructor (Intro. to Federal Indian Law, Environmental Justice in Indian Country, Criminal Justice in Indian Country). Elouise Cobell (Blackfeet) persevered as the lead plaintiff in one of the largest class-action lawsuits ever won against the federal government!

Background & Film Trailer: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le2NB6RQ9Kk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le2NB6RQ9Kk)

View the film on your own (WVU login needed): [https://wvu.kanopy.com/video/100-years-one-womans-fight-justice](https://wvu.kanopy.com/video/100-years-one-womans-fight-justice)

Register for the ZOOM discussion with Prof. Chaney: [https://wvu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5BF69H1vHQCtmJ](https://wvu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5BF69H1vHQCtmJ)

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Due to the pandemic, this year’s annual Native American Studies Peace Tree Ceremony was a small, private event involving just six people. Wearing masks and observing social distancing, they met at the Peace Tree outside Martin Hall on Saturday afternoon, November 7. The gathering marked the 28th anniversary of WVU’s Peace Tree, planted by Haudenosaunee (Iroquoian) leaders and commemorated yearly by Native American guests from tribes all over the country. The nearly 1,000-year-old Peace Tree tradition began when the Peacemaker united the warring Seneca, Cayuga, Oneida, Mohawk, and Onondaga Nations by planting the original Tree of Peace at Onondaga, thus forming the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, which the Tuscarora joined later.

This year’s Peace Tree gathering was dedicated to honoring those who are suffering or have been lost due to covid-19. Dr. Ellesa Clay High, former NAS Program head and Department of English Professor Emerita, organized the event. High led a group effort with her Preston County neighbors and friends to create a garland of nearly 500 tobacco ties in honor of those who have died in West Virginia as a result covid-19. The handmade ties took many hours to create and consist of a small bit of tobacco bundled in red fabric and tied with ribbon. (Many Native Americans regard tobacco as a sacred component of prayer and ritual.) Dr. High reflected on the experience, “As I put the memorial garland together, each tie touching another, I thought, ‘the spiritual does not have to social distance.’ It was such an honor, and was very moving to create it.” In addition, she made a larger gold and blue tobacco bundle to pay tribute to all those at WVU who are struggling in some way due to the covid crisis. (continued, next pg.)

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Virtual Peace Tree video links (available through November 30)

Because our large-scale annual Peace Tree ceremony and public lecture were not held this year due to covid-19 restrictions, we’re opening our video archives. Recordings of the 2019 Peace Tree Ceremony and Lecture Presentation by Jamie Jacobs (Tonawanda Seneca) are archived through the WVU Libraries. Mr. Jacobs is a Ceremonial Custodian, Seneca Language Instructor, and Cultural Educator.

Pictured at the 2019 Peace Tree gathering, WVU downtown campus, left to right: Christopher Chaney (Seneca-Cayuga Nation), Native American Studies instructor; Blaine Tallchief ( Allegany Seneca), Seneca Faithkeeper & Member, Newtown & Coldspring Longhouse; and Guest of Honor Jamie Jacobs (Tonawanda Seneca), Ceremonial Custodian, Cultural Educator, Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy (Haudenosaunee, People of the Longhouse).

To preserve image quality, the 1.5-hour lecture presentation, which includes formal introductions and opening remarks, is divided into these four sequential recordings:

Part 1- https://mediasitewv.lib.wvu.edu/Mediasite1/Play/ef7a66c7e734491cb4fbaf6f680b00ce1d

Part 2- https://mediasitewv.lib.wvu.edu/Mediasite1/Play/efcd3f9f4bbb4e0eb93d5f973ae5f6831d

Part 3- https://mediasitewv.lib.wvu.edu/Mediasite1/Play/15257bb7c3234f07a9a09aa234646ca51d

Part 4- https://mediasitewv.lib.wvu.edu/Mediasite1/Play/a5f090aea1ff45928c46793648d9eeb21d

As part of the 2019 Peace Tree Ceremony, Mr. Jacobs gave a history of the Peace Tree and formation of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. The recording, with opening remarks by WVU administrators, gift-giving, and songs, runs approx. 1:20.

https://mediasitewv.lib.wvu.edu/Mediasite1/Play/9be9ab49c52e4445a2811a91231f6bb11d

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