

**2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

**CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN  
AND INDIGENOUS RESEARCH**



Northwestern

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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- 1 From the Codirectors
- 2 Faces of CNAIR
- 9 Vision and Goals
- 15 Outreach and Engagement
- 17 Strategic Priorities
- 18 History
- 18 External Partners
- 19 Staff and Affiliates

Establishment of the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research was made possible by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.



### **Additional Contributions**

A. LaVonne Brown-Ruoff  
Patty Loew and David Braga  
Pamala Silas and Vincent Romero

### **Land Acknowledgment**

Northwestern University sits on the traditional homelands of the people of the Council of Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa. The land was also a site of trade, travel, gathering, and healing for more than a dozen other Native American tribes and is still home to over 100,000 tribal members in Illinois.

### **On the Cover**

Oneida elder Don Charnon shares his knowledge of Oneida white corn with Northwestern journalism students. Several dozen students visited the Oneida Nation reservation in northeastern Wisconsin during an annual service-learning visit.



## FROM THE 2018–19 CODIRECTORS

Greetings,

We thank everyone who has been a part of a second amazing year at the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research. We are happy to share our accomplishments and showcase our affiliates and fellows as well as the programs and partnerships that took place during the 2018–19 academic year.

Through hosting our inaugural undergraduate and graduate research fellows, CNAIR supported research on such topics as Cherokee language programs, Indigenous relations to land and identity in Peru, and music of the Brothertown Indian Nation.

In May 2019, we hosted the first of what is to be an annual symposium, where fellows presented their research to a packed house of community members, parents, administrators, and CNAIR affiliates. Citizen Band Potawatomi cartographer Margaret Pearce, our artist in residence, gave the keynote lecture “One Place Because of Another: Mapping Indigenous Geographies.” As artist in residence, she spent part of spring quarter at Northwestern, visiting classes, conducting individual meetings, and consulting on collaborative research projects.

The center continues to foster collaborative relationships with local Native American and Indigenous organizations and with tribal communities throughout the Great Lakes region. In one such collaboration, journalism students visited the Oneida Nation in Wisconsin to help at its traditional white-corn harvest, working alongside tribal members and learning about the significance of the corn in Oneida culture and techniques for harvesting and storing.

The center has recently moved to a larger space, and looking ahead, we are excited that the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences has approved a new minor in Native American and Indigenous studies. We’re grateful to our on- and off-campus partners and affiliates, who have contributed time, talent, and resources to support our vision.

Baamaapii (see you soon),

Patty Loew  
Kelly Wisecup

### CNAIR by the numbers

- 10** undergraduate fellows
- 4** graduate fellows
- 3** faculty fellowships awarded
- 19** courses with Indigenous content taught by center affiliates
- 22** affiliates, a 37 percent increase from prior year
- 19** public events sponsored
- 11** graduate cluster students, more than doubled from previous year

## **FACES OF CNAIR**

### **Beth Redbird Affiliate**

(Oglala Lakota/  
Oklahoma Choctaw)  
Assistant professor  
of sociology,  
Weinberg College



My work is about boundaries. Whether grounded in law, economics, geography, or culture, social boundaries create inequality, change who we are, determine who enters, and alter how we understand ourselves and outsiders.

Nowhere is the diverse nature of boundaries more aptly demonstrated than in the Native American context. Tribes are seen as ethnically distinct cultural groups, but each is also a complex web of interacting social institutions. A tribe is a political entity with its own government, constitution, rights, and citizenship requirements. It is an economy with labor markets, industries, and workers. And it is a legal system with its own laws and regulations.

**“By revising social boundaries, we enable resource movement and can create more equality and justice.”**

In the US there are 573 federally recognized tribes on 326 reservations and homelands.

This creates fertile ground for comparative study of the consequences of institutional boundaries and an opportunity for research that may contribute to Native American well-being.

My focus is on the inequality consequences of boundaries in three contexts: economic and social relations within Native American tribes; work and occupations; and segregation and knowledge. Understanding boundaries not only informs the causes of inequality but also guides effective solutions. By revising social boundaries, we enable resource movement and can create more equality and justice.

I am proud to be part of Northwestern University and CNAIR as I continue to study the structural nature of the Native American experience.

## **FACES OF CNAIR**

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### **Josh Honn**

#### **Affiliate**

Digital humanities librarian,  
University Libraries



My work and research focus on how we can center care and ethics in curating cultural heritage materials in the digital age. Most recently this has been put into practice through a collaboration with the American Indian Association of Illinois, as our team performs archival research, hosts community events, and creates a website sharing the history of the Native American Educational Services College, a Native-run institution that offered a community-based tribal and academic undergraduate education to Native students from 1974 to 2005. Through our work, we are documenting the history of an important urban Indian institution while acknowledging its continuing impact in the present and actively enabling new futures.

This community-based work has strengthened a commitment to having good relationships with one another through acts of careful and slow listening and recognizing the importance of telling creative, thoughtful stories that

**👍 We are documenting the history of an important urban Indian institution while acknowledging its continuing impact in the present. 🗨️**

deepen our understanding of one another and better our world.

I continue to learn from the CNAIR community, and the center has helped me to engage my passion for nature by

collaborating on the new annual Birds and Breakfast spring event, which has blossomed into monthly nature walks on campus and created new friendships. Indeed, even on cold and blustery winter nature outings, CNAIR events feel like family to me and bring so much warmth and joy to campus and beyond.

**FACES OF  
CNAIR**

**Nikki McDaid-Morgan**

**Graduate student**

(Shoshone-Bannock)

Learning sciences, School of  
Education and Social Policy



I am currently studying how youth and adults recognize personhood of more-than-humans (e.g., sunflowers, salmon) and how, along with Indigenous stories, this might affect decision-making around social and environmental concerns. With my adviser, Megan Bang, and Indigenous community members, I've codesigned and implemented a summer program for Indigenous youth that foregrounds

Indigenous ways of knowing and being with the world.

**“It’s my role and responsibility to work alongside [Indigenous youth] and help them realize their agency.”**

Focused on science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math,

the program is designed to support participants’ relationships with lands and waters and support their decision-making around complex issues like climate change. For example, several youth talked about how cultural stories told at camp taught them lessons about our responsibilities to more-than-human relatives.

Many Indigenous communities feel the effects of climate change, and many Indigenous youth feel defeated as to how we can do anything about it. It’s my role and responsibility to work alongside them and help them realize their agency—dreaming of possible futures where Indigenous peoples are thriving, creating the conditions under which Indigenous communities can thrive, and reinforcing the facets of our communities that already support our thriving. My work is a small part of this, but it’s my life’s work to do all three. CNAIR has supported my taking steps to do this work in Chicago as well as with my tribe in Idaho. With the center’s support, I was able to connect my program with a similar one in my own Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. This gave me the opportunity to further my research, serve Indigenous youth from my own and other tribes, and build relations with the lands and waters that have been sacred to our tribes since time immemorial.



Facilitator and learning sciences graduate student Forrest Bruce teaching ChiSTEAM camp participants Jacob and Sohobi a traditional Native American dice game that includes traditional language and the concept of probabilities

## VISION AND GOALS

CNAIR is Northwestern's primary institutional space dedicated to advancing scholarship, teaching and learning, and artistic and cultural practices related to Native American and Indigenous communities, priorities, histories, and lifeways.

Our vision is for the center to

- operate as a hub for multidisciplinary, collaborative work informed by and responsive to Native American and Indigenous nations, communities, and organizations;
- foster an innovative, Indigenous-centered intellectual space open to multiple modes of engagement for faculty, students, staff, and community members; and
- develop and promote reciprocal and sovereignty-affirming relationships and partnerships with Native American and Indigenous peoples and organizations.

### ADVANCING SCHOLARSHIP

As the University's intellectual hub for research with and about Native American and Indigenous peoples, CNAIR each year offers numerous opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students and faculty to advance their research and participate in a scholarly and intellectual community.

#### Undergraduate fellowships

Ten political science, sociology, journalism, art history, comparative literary studies, and environmental studies undergraduates received funding in 2018–19 to support independent or faculty-directed research.

#### Graduate fellowships

The center's graduate student fellowship program seeks to generate and support research responsive to and engaged with Native communities and organizations and historical and contemporary issues. Research fellows have the opportunity to receive mentoring in Native American and Indigenous studies (NAIS) methodologies under the supervision of a CNAIR affiliate.

In 2018–19, we announced our first fellowship cohort. Four doctoral and two master's students received graduate fellowship awards. Students spent a quarter in residence at CNAIR, meeting regularly with one another and codirector Kelly Wisecup, sharing written work informally in those meetings and formally in reading groups and presentations. Students also selected mentors from outside Northwestern (including directors of nonprofit organizations, museums, and archives related to NAIS research) to discuss their research projects, career diversity, and how NAIS research applies outside academia. Students used fellowship funding for fieldwork in such areas as archives of Indigenous literature, fiestas in Peru, and traditional ecological knowledge along rivers.

#### Research fellow highlights

Using a community-based participatory research approach, **Alissa Baker-Oglesbee** (psychology) seeks to understand how Cherokee language affects environmental cognition. Her study is timely in uniting in novel ways two areas of focused research and development: language revitalization and traditional ecological knowledge.

**Allison Conner** (leadership for creative enterprises) focuses on the invisibility and marginalization of Native Americans in the history of popular music, seeking to understand the complexities of this erasure. She brings to this project experience working at the National Museum of the American Indian and as a professional musician.

By examining poetic depictions of religious space, **Brad Dubos** (English) investigates how Native American, African American, and women poets represented the lived experience of religion from the Revolutionary period to the end of the 19th century. Mapping a network of sacred places, sites of supernatural encounter, and everyday spaces of reverence within the American literary imagination, his project explores how religious spaces functioned for and came to matter to Indigenous peoples, black Americans, and women during this period.

**Walther Maradiegue** (Spanish and Portuguese) examines how late 19th-century and early 20th-century cultural production from Indigenous and non-Indigenous sources has shaped perceptions and understandings of the natural, racial, and cultural landscapes of the northern Peruvian Andes. His project asks questions about racialization, representation, and territorialities and draws on a mix of archival, literary, visual, and historical texts.

The doctoral work of Peruvian theater director, scholar, and performer **Enzo E. Vasquez Toral** (performance studies) focuses on queer and trans engagement in cross-dressing ritual practices in patron-saint fiestas, folklore, religiosity, and visual and performance art in the Andes. He explores how contemporary queer and trans performers and artists engage with concepts and elements related to Catholicism, Indigenous thought, mestizo identity, devotion, and colonized views on gender and sexuality in relation to their own identities.

**Nis Wilbur** (public policy and administration) plans to work with CNAIR to investigate effects of tribal enrollment policies on children. A citizen of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, she is excited to strengthen her research skills and looks forward to collaborating with tribes.

In their evaluations, graduate students noted that the fellowship quarter enabled them to complete dissertation chapters, write articles, begin establishing methodologies for their work, and conduct ethnographic fieldwork. They said regular meetings with other fellows and Wisecup provided a valuable and previously nonexistent space to discuss NAIS methodologies as they pertain to students' work and were "vital to forming a community."

Some students noted that fellowships and center programming changed the direction and methods of their work; as one wrote, "The CNAIR fellowship . . . has introduced me to a community-based approach and opportunities for collaboration that were absent from my work before."

Another wrote that the fellowship supported his work not only through informal conversations and formal workshops but also with the forms of knowledge production CNAIR generates: "I really like how CNAIR is not only committed to organizing academic events but is continuously questioning the limits of university knowledge production by promoting other kinds of events. I also liked that the fellowship associated graduate students with scholars working in a nonuniversity context; this was an excellent opportunity to think of other ways of Indigenous scholarship and activism."

### CNAIR Research Symposium

Graduate and undergraduate fellows presented their work in May 2019 at the first annual CNAIR Research Symposium, which featured panel presentations of research supported by CNAIR



(Above) CNAIR received a substantial donation of books and Native American art from alumna and Native American literature scholar A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff (SESP 53, GSESP 54, 66). (Top right) At its research symposium, the center recognized Ruoff (right, with Pamala Silas) for her support. (Right) Undergraduate research fellow Lois Biggs (Cherokee/Ojibwe) presents her research at the symposium.

fellowships as well as a keynote from artist in residence Margaret Pearce and remarks from Weinberg College dean Adrian Randolph. The event was a wonderful way to reflect on the important research of our community, and we were delighted that 60 to 75 people attended each session, reflecting the enthusiasm for NAIS research across campus and the Chicago area.



### **NAIS Graduate Cluster**

The community of graduate fellows is augmented by a graduate cluster (funded by Northwestern's Graduate School), which in its second year increased its membership to 11 students. The cluster met two to three times per quarter to share work and for fellowship application workshops and reading groups related to upcoming CNAIR events. The cluster draws students from the humanities and social sciences as a vibrant place to receive support for their work and to engage with NAIS. In 2018–19, the cluster worked with departments including history, sociology, and art history to recruit graduate students with interests in Indigenous studies.

### **Faculty fellowships**

CNAIR awarded three faculty fellowships. **Beatriz Reyes** (global health studies) was awarded the curriculum enhancement grant for 2018–19 to develop two new courses related to Native American health and health policy. Fellowships for 2019–20 were awarded to **Beth Redbird** (sociology) and **Kim Suiseeya** (political science).

## **ADVANCING ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL PRACTICES**

### **Artist in residence**

CNAIR hosted Margaret Pearce as its 2018–19 artist in residence. Pearce (Citizen Band Potawatomi) is a cartographer whose maps integrate Indigenous stories, place names, and place-based knowledge to represent place and space. During the year, she visited undergraduate courses, held regular office hours to consult on graduate students' projects, participated in a panel cohosted by CNAIR and the Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, and gave the keynote at CNAIR's research symposium.

Pearce is currently at work on "Mississippi Dialogues: Fieldwork for an Interdisciplinary Cartographic Inquiry into the Indigenous Place Worlds of the Mississippi River." The project creates not

simply another representation of the river, but a visual and literary narrative of the Indigenous knowledge of the river that foregrounds Indigenous peoples' ecological understanding and memories of the river and flooding.



Margaret Pearce

Pearce's talks and office hours were met with great enthusiasm from affiliates and students across multiple departments, speaking to the ways her work and presence on campus engaged the community and galvanized and supported research on place-making.

#### **Cosponsored programs**

CNAIR and affiliates cosponsored numerous collaborative events and programs during the academic year. We sincerely thank our partners and cosponsors:

American Indian Association of Illinois  
American Indian Center of Chicago  
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe  
Chi-Nations Youth Council  
Colloquium on Indigeneity and Native  
American Studies  
Department of Anthropology  
Department of Astronomy and Physics  
Department of English  
Department of Political Science  
Department of Spanish and Portuguese  
Evanston Public Library  
Ho-Chunk Nation Chicago Branch Office  
Kaplan Institute for the Humanities Dialogues  
on Security

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program  
Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated  
Marketing Communications  
Mitchell Museum of the American Indian  
Multicultural Student Affairs  
Native American Journalists Association  
Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies  
Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion  
Oneida Nation  
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi  
Saint Kateri Center of Chicago  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
University Libraries

**October 8, 2018**

#### **Indigenous Peoples' Day**

CNAIR was one of seven national host sites for the screening of *The Eagle and the Condor*, a film about the emerging environmental solidarity among Indian nations. The event featured a real-time discussion with 11 other organizations and communities that connected via Facebook Live.

**November 2, 2018**

#### **"Resistance and Resilience in the Native Northeast: New Approaches to Memory, History-Making, and Decolonization"**

**Christine DeLucia, Williams College**

An assistant professor of history and author of *Memory Lands: King Philip's War and the Place of Violence in the Northeast*, DeLucia discussed the intersections of memory and public history and how collaboration with tribal nations can transform archival research.

**November 29, 2018**

#### **Northwestern Sovereignty Symposium**

**Jenny Davis (Chickasaw Nation), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; J. Kehaulani Kauanui, Wesleyan University; Doug Kiel (Oneida Nation), Northwestern**

In the context of debates about the security of borders, three Indigenous studies scholars gave presentations on current issues of Indigenous sovereignty.

December 1, 2018

### **Standing Rock: Photographs of an Indigenous Movement**

Levi Rickert

During 2016's Standing Rock protests to stop construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, American Indian journalist Rickert knew that the largest American Indian movement since 1973's Wounded Knee siege was unfolding. The publisher and editor of Native News Online, Rickert covered the protest; his photojournalism yielded over 1,500 photographs capturing the movement's intensity.

December 7, 2018

### **Native Literature and Arts Holiday Celebration**

Theodore C. Van Alst Jr. (Ho-Chunk Nation)

The author presented his book *Sacred Smokes*, a debut story collection about growing up as a Native youth surviving Chicago gang life.

February 8, 2019

### **"Kayapó Filmmaking in the Amazon"**

Simone Giovine and Bepkadoiti Kayapó

Filmmakers Giovine, cofounder of the Kayapó Béture filmmaking collective, and Kayapó, part of both the Koko jagoti and Béture collectives, presented on their work, raising awareness of the role of collaborative media in governmental accountability, political activism, and Indigenous-led expressions of rights and heritage.

February 13, 2019

### **Collectors and Researchers: The Library and Indigenous Studies Explorations**

The program highlighted librarians' research efforts, explored topics in Indigenous studies, and showcased newly acquired rare materials and opportunities for new research and teaching partnerships.

February 15, 2019

### **"Native Activism and Art in Chicago from Carlos Montezuma to Susan Power"**

Laura Furlan, University of Massachusetts;  
Kiara Vigil, Amherst College

At an event cohosted by the American Indian Center of Chicago, authors Furlan and Vigil talked

Kiara Vigil, Laura Furlan, and Aaron Golding



about their work on Native activists, writers, and visual artists in Chicago in a discussion moderated by Northwestern's Aaron Golding, examining how stories, film, art, and performance are central to representing Chicago as a Native space.

February 27, 2019

### **"Walking as Witness"**

JeeYeun Lee

Artist, writer, and activist Lee shared recent works focusing on the colonization and genocide of Indigenous peoples in what is now the US. As an immigrant from Korea, a formerly colonized country now participating in the ongoing colonization of others, she creates art that reflects on what it means (or doesn't mean) to be a settler, immigrant, and ally to Indigenous peoples.

March 11, 2019

### **"Native Politics"**

Daviree Velázquez Phillip and Aaron Golding

Velázquez Phillip and Golding facilitated a conversation in celebration of the Native Americans newly elected to Congress and other positions, including representatives Deb Haaland and Sharice Davids.

March 29–31, 2019

### **Stellar STEM Weekend**

The Department of Physics and Astronomy hosted a weekend visit from middle school girls from the Little Wound School in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. At the final evening meal, traditional star stories were exchanged.

April 4, 2019

### “Digital Reporting in Indigenous Communities”

Tristan Ahtone, *High Country News* and president, Native American Journalists Association; Graham Brewer, *High Country News*; Victoria LaPoe, Ohio University; Patty Loew, Northwestern

Featuring journalists working in Indigenous communities, this open forum and panel discussion encouraged reporters to move past stereotypical coverage and toward stories that enlighten both Native and non-Native audiences. The discussion focused on ethics, three-dimensional coverage, and the use of data.

April 11, 2019

### “A Ho-Chunk History of Citizenship”

Stephen Kantrowitz, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Kantrowitz, who regularly collaborates with the Ho-Chunk Nation on historical projects, lectured on the history of the Ho-Chunk people and citizenship following Reconstruction.

April 12–13, 2019

### “Thinking Andean Studies” Conference

Organized by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, the conference endeavored to strengthen the interdisciplinary network of scholars working in the growing field of Andean studies and help foster a mentoring relationship between established and emerging scholars.

April 23, 2019

### “Defining and Enacting Food Sovereignty through Native American Farming and Gardening Projects”

Elizabeth Hoover (Mohawk), Brown University Hoover is an assistant professor of American studies. Her forthcoming second book, *From “Garden Warriors” to “Good Seeds”: Indigenizing the Local Food Movement*, explores Native American farming and gardening undertakings around the country.

SECURITY

A year-long conversation about struggles over security from humanistic perspectives

FOOD • HEALTH • SUSTAINABILITY • POLITICAL • ECONOMIC • RACE • TERRITORY • CLIMATE • ETHICS

ELIZABETH HOOVER  
American Studies, Brown University

DEFINING AND ENACTING  
FOOD SOVEREIGNTY  
Through Native American  
Farming and Gardening Projects

April 23, 2019  
5:00 pm  
Kresge #2350 (Kaplan Institute)

Elizabeth Hoover is Manning Assistant Professor of American Studies at Brown University. She teaches courses on environmental health and justice in Native communities, indigenous food movements, Native American museum curation, and community engaged research. Her second book project, *From Garden Warriors to “Good Seeds”: Indigenizing the Local Food Movement*, explores Native American farming and gardening projects around the country; the successes and challenges faced by these organizations, the ways in which participants define and envision concepts like food sovereignty, and the importance of heritage seeds.

Northwestern  
Center for Native American  
and Indigenous Research

ALICE KAPLAN INSTITUTE  
FOR THE HUMANITIES

Free and open to the public.  
Seating provided by the Helen Larson Fund

Full SECURITY Dialogues series at  
humanities.northwestern.edu

April 26, 2019

### “Belongings: A Critical Forum on Museum Practices”

Jenny L. Davis, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Joseph Aguilar, University of Pennsylvania; Nina Sanders, Neubauer Collegium Visiting Fellow; Andrea Carlson, artist and writer Panelists discussed museum collection and exhibition practices in a dialogue to educate students who will become museum professionals about the need for cultivating reciprocal relationships with Indigenous communities and establishing respectful, consultation-based museum practices.

May 6, 2019

### “Re/Mapping Indigenous and Afro-descendent Geographies in the Americas: A Conversation about Collaborative Cartography”

Andrew Britt, Margaret Pearce, Kelly Wisecup This panel discussion featured the work and research of Britt, a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Digital Humanities at Northwestern; Pearce, CNAIR’s artist in residence; and CNAIR codirector Wisecup.

May 8, 2019

### “Decolonial Theory and Gender”

Walther Maradiegue

The facilitated discussion was coordinated by CNAIR fellow Maradiegue and attended by graduate students and faculty from the history, anthropology, English, and Spanish and Portuguese departments.

May 13, 2019

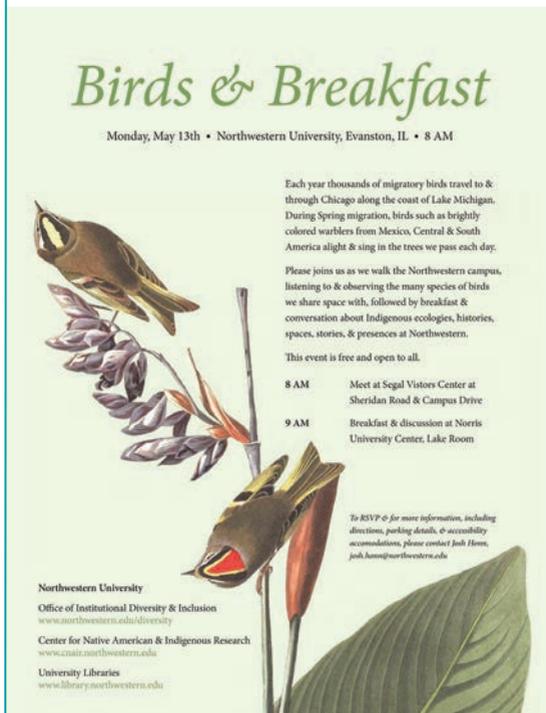
### Birds and Breakfast

Over 50 participants, led by CNAIR affiliate Josh Honn, walked Northwestern’s campus to listen to and observe the many bird species sharing our space, followed by breakfast and conversation about Indigenous ecologies, histories, spaces, stories, and presences at the University.

May 17, 2019

### CNAIR Research Symposium

See page 10.



## OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

### Chicago-area research networks

As CNAIR joins the existing network of Chicago-area programs, centers, and institutions focusing on Indigenous research and serving Native people, we are actively building that network through our collaborations.

In an exciting development—and an indication of our role as a hub for generating and supporting Indigenous research—CNAIR codirector Kelly Wisecup helped organize the Chicagoland NAIS Working Group. Composed of faculty and graduate students from area universities, including the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois at Chicago, Northern Illinois University, Loyola University Chicago, and Northwestern, the group reads and provides feedback on precirculated papers. Participants also share information about programs, assisting efforts to build NAIS research at area universities and providing support to faculty in traditional disciplines at universities without NAIS centers or programs.

We continue to build on our solid relationships with three key local Native-serving institutions: the Field Museum, the Newberry Library, and the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian. CNAIR codirector Patty Loew and affiliate Doug Kiel are advisers to the Field’s North American Native exhibit opening in 2021; Wisecup serves as Northwestern’s liaison to the Newberry D’Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies.

CNAIR also continues its relationship with the Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative, made up of American Indian educators, parents, and students who represent educational organizations and programs at all levels that serve American Indian people in the Chicago area. Program assistant Jennifer Michals is a member of its education committee.

The center has broadened its connections to Northwestern science departments as well. For the second year, the University hosted the award-selection

committee of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. CNAIR also supported diversity efforts by Bruce Lindvall, assistant dean for graduate studies for the McCormick School of Engineering, who assisted in the award selection process. We are encouraged that professor Aaron Packman, director of the Northwestern Center for Water Research, has joined CNAIR's advisory council. CNAIR has had regular meetings with the Feinberg School of Medicine and has cosponsored with the Department of Physics and Astronomy two STEM outreach programs involving Native middle school girls.

### **Tribal, regional, national, and international research networks**

CNAIR continues to build regional research relationships with tribal communities and Native-serving organizations and academic institutions. From April 2018 to May 2019, Loew spoke at 17 events in the Great Lakes region, delivering keynotes and workshops and participating in panel presentations.

In building national networks, CNAIR has leveraged intersecting interests with groups such as the American Indian Science and Engineering Society and the Native American Journalists Association. Both associations have a robust commitment to supporting educational and career-development pathways for their members. For the past two years, AISES convened its professional-of-the-year selection process on Northwestern's campus, with support from CNAIR, the McCormick School, and the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion. NAJA held its board of directors, strategic planning, and leadership training meetings on campus in 2019. Outreach and engagement director Pamala Silas participated as a member of the AISES selection committee and provided facilitation for the NAJA strategic plan and fundraising training.

In June 2019, Loew attended an informational event, hosted by the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, for faculty interested in creating research partnerships with collaborators in Australia. Loew and CNAIR affiliate Kim Suseeya are using the Australian Mukurtu Indigenous archiving system in their

community-based research. Along with two tribal historic-preservation officers, they participated in a roundtable discussion about Mukurtu at the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association conference in New Zealand in June 2019—a unique opportunity to build research relationships with Maori and Aboriginal attendees.

### **ChiSTEAM Summer Camp**

CNAIR participated in an intergenerational camp for children in first through twelfth grades. Funded by the National Science Foundation and facilitated by Northwestern's learning sciences program, the camp connected 47 Native and Indigenous young people with the land and waters through Indigenous stories, art, technologies, and sciences. A research component provided a means to understand how youth, teachers, and families learn together about and within complex ecological systems.





(Facing page)  
Indigenous children take a look at crayfish during ChiSTEAM. (Left) Northwestern president Morton Schapiro, alumnus Sean Harte (WCAS 87), tribal leaders Laurie Reiter and Douglas Cox, and Combe Family Vice President for Athletics and Recreation Jim Phillips unveiling the newly renovated Welsh-Ryan Arena and acknowledging the symbolic significance of using lumber from the Menominee Tribal Nation for the basketball court floor.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

CNAIR is an integral part of Northwestern's efforts to promote healing and inclusivity of Native Americans. This requires us to work closely with the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, Multicultural Student Affairs, the Graduate School, and Undergraduate Admission. CNAIR is committed to creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all students.

The 2018–19 year has been one of accomplishments for CNAIR. Many objectives outlined within three strategic priority areas are on target, and achievements during the past academic year are listed throughout this report.

### **Increase support for faculty and student research by**

- Formalizing and expanding affiliate relationships across disciplines and schools
- Implementing student and faculty fellowships
- Convening scholars and disseminating research
- Establishing protocols for research partnerships

### **Build relationships by**

- Identifying issues relevant to tribal and urban communities
- Identifying resources, including people and organizations with intersecting interests
- Establishing CNAIR as a national resource for Native American and Indigenous research
- Serving as a resource to the Northwestern community and its diversity initiatives

### **Create space, place, and belonging on campus by**

- Developing infrastructure, including governance, operating systems, policies, and staff
- Securing sustainable funding sources
- Seeking appropriate space to meet program needs
- Providing leadership in organizing and seeking approval for an undergraduate minor in Native American studies

## HISTORY

CNAIR's origins are in student activism in 2013, when undergraduates in the Native American and Indigenous Students Alliance asked the administration to acknowledge University founder John Evans's role in the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre. Evans was territorial governor of Colorado (a role that included acting as superintendent of Indian affairs) when US soldiers killed more than 200 Cheyenne and Arapaho people—primarily women and children—who had declared their peaceful intentions and placed themselves under the protection of the US's Fort Lyon.

In 2013, the provost's office convened the John Evans Report Committee to explore Evans's role in the massacre and his relationship with Northwestern. The University also convened the Native American Outreach and Inclusion Task Force to recommend strategies to strengthen Northwestern's relationship with Native American communities through recruitment efforts, academic programs, and campus support services. The task force recommended that the University fund an Indigenous research center.

In 2015, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences dean Adrian Randolph announced the Indigenous Studies Research Initiative, which in part resulted in hiring two tenure-track assistant professors and a postdoctoral fellow. In 2016, the College received a \$1.5 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research. Center directors were appointed and the first staff position was filled. Programming began in fall 2017, a strategic plan was created, and the first affiliates from various schools began establishing the center's governance and operational structures.

Outreach to local, regional, and national Native American communities and tribes has been critical. Listening to tribal leaders, understanding the research needs of Native communities, and finding opportunities for collaboration will continue to be central to the center's work as CNAIR takes shape over the coming years.

## EXTERNAL PARTNERS

American Indian Association of Illinois  
American Indian Center of Chicago  
Bad River Tribal Youth Media  
Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative  
D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies, Newberry Library  
Field Museum of Natural History  
Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission  
Mitchell Museum of the American Indian  
Native American Journalists Association





Kelly Wisecup,  
Patty Loew,  
Jennifer Michals,  
and Pamala Silas

## CODIRECTORS

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professor of journalism  
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**Kelly Wisecup**, CNAIR codirector (2018–20);  
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## STAFF

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**Aaron Packman**, professor of civil and  
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(Clockwise from top left)  
 Doug Kiel, Beatriz Reyes,  
 Jenna Braunstein, and  
 Patty Loew at the Oneida  
 White Corn Festival and  
 service-learning weekend

## 2018-19 AFFILIATES

**Megan Bang**, professor of learning sciences

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**Abigail Foerstner**, assistant professor of journalism

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**Beatriz O. Reyes**, assistant professor of instruction in global health studies

**Ramón Rivera-Servera**, professor and chair of performance studies; interim chair of theatre

**Nitasha Tamar Sharma**, associate professor and director of graduate studies in African American studies; director of Asian American studies

**Kimberly Marion Suiseeya**, assistant professor of political science

**Eli Suzukovich III**, adjunct lecturer in anthropology and environmental policy and culture

**Joel Valentín-Martínez**, associate professor and director of dance

**Mary Weismantel**, professor of anthropology



Facilitators and campers playing the traditional Native American game of lacrosse during the ChiSTEAM summer camp

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Produced by Global Marketing and Communications.  
4-20/500/JS-KP/2911

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