

IWS History

Six years ago, a committee of students and staff from the American Indian Council, the Multicultural Resource Center and the Edmonia Lewis Center for Women and Transgender People came together in order to raise awareness surrounding the history of U.S. and European imperialism in the Americas and Pacific Islands. The result of their groundbreaking work was Oberlin's first annual Indigenous Women's Series. Six years later, this series has become a vital part of the Oberlin calendar, connecting academics and activism, bringing together wide coalitions of students, staff and faculty to plan, execute and support the series, and providing an important and often otherwise unavailable educational opportunity to hundreds of Oberlin students.

The long-term goal of the series has been to increase the institutional awareness and support of Indigenous issues in the curriculum and among the campus community. IWS has succeeded in being a point around which progress has been organized in incorporating Indigenous issues and studies into the co/curricular world of Oberlin College.

Over the last six years, the series has brought to Oberlin 17 scholars, artists and activists: Chrystos, Andrea Smith, Antoinette Harfauros, Haunani-Kay Trask in 2000-2001; Cherrie Moraga, LeAnne Howe, Stormy Ogden, J.Kehaulani Kauanui in 2001-2002; Inez Hernandez-Avila, Susan Applegate Krouse, Charlene Teters, Myla Vicente Carpio in 2002-2003; Mililani Trask, Sharon Day, Andrea

Smith in 2003-2004; Ellen Baird, Tiya Miles, Davianna McGregor in 2004-2005.

In its fourth year IWS evolved into a highly popular Comparative American Studies mini-course, taught by Dr. Andrea Smith of the University of

Michigan at Ann Arbor, that examined Native American feminisms in greater depth. This growing support for the academic study of Indigenous issues was part of a larger effort that most recently has resulted in the approval of a Mellon Post-Doctoral position for the 2005-2006 academic year in Indigenous Studies, housed in the Comparative American Studies program. Annette Portillo, Visiting Assistant Professor in Native American Studies, currently holds this position.

The 2005-2006 Indigenous Women's Series organizing committee is proud to present this years series and committed to continuing to educate the Oberlin community and support Indigenous students.

Presented By:

***Multicultural Resource Center
Edmonia Lewis Center for Women
and Transgender People
Oberlin Native American Alliance
14th Biennial Asian/Pacific
American
Conference Committee***

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Co-sponsored By:

***Dean of Students
Dean of Arts & Sciences
Anthropology
Comparative American Studies***

For more information or to get involved, contact
the Multicultural Resource Center at
mrc@oberlin.edu



Anne Keala Kelly

Saturday February 18th

6:30pm—8:30pm

Root Room

**A/PA Conference Keynote Banquet
and Speaker: “Globalizing the Native”**

A Native Hawaiian activist and journalist, Anne has published more than 80 articles, essays and radio reports about Hawaiian politics, culture, and art between 2000 and 2005.



Keala has made two 28-minute guerilla documentaries to rally community resistance against condemnation of Hawaiian land for the benefit of wealthy condo owners, and a 10-minute educational piece for American Friends Service Committee used to educate and motivate community-wide resistance to the upcoming US Army expansion and Stryker Brigade.

She received her MFA in Film Production from the UCLA School of Film and Television in 1998, and is Writer, Director, Editor and Producer of *Noho Hewa Ma Hawai'i Nei*, a documentary film about the historic and contemporary presence of the US Military in Hawai'i.

Dr. Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Thursday, April 13th

4:30pm

West Lecture Hall, Science Center

**“Geopolitics and the International
Indigenous Movement”**

From 1967 and 1972, Dunbar-Ortiz, was a full time activist living in various parts of the United States, traveling to Europe, Mexico, and Cuba. This time of her life and the aftermath, 1960-1975, is the story told in *Outlaw Woman: Memoir of the War Years*.



She took a position teaching in a newly established Native American Studies program at California State University at Hayward, and helped to develop the Department of Ethnic Studies, as well as Women's Studies. In 1974, she became active in the American Indian Movement (AIM) and the International Indian Treaty Council, beginning a lifelong commitment to internal human rights.

Her visits and work appraising the land tenure situation of the Miskitu Indians in Sandinista Nicaragua allowed her to monitor what was called the Contra War. Her book, *Blood on the Border: A Memor of the Contra War* was published in 2005.

Dr. Michelle H. Raheja

Tuesday, April 25th

4:30pm

West Lecture Hall, Science Center

**“Molly Spotted Elk is a dancer... but
she also knows how to punch a
typewriter”**

Dr. Raheja received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and works in Native American literature, with a special interest in autobiography and film.



Her book project, entitled “Screening Identity: Beads, Buckskins, and Redface in Autobiography and Film” explores the history of filmic representations of Native Americans through the personal narratives and visual aesthetics of indigenous actors and entertainers. Other current projects include an essay on contemporary First Nations (Canadian) film and an essay on Native American representations in silent film.

Professor Raheja's training and teaching cover all periods and genres of American literature up to the present, with a special emphasis on early colonial literature, autobiography, multi-ethnic literature, and film and visual culture.