

# IWS History

Five 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. Five 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 five years, the series has brought to Oberlin 14 scholars, artists and activists: Chrystos, Andrea Smith, Antoinette Charfauros, 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-

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*IWS History, cont...*

2004. 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.

The 2004-2005 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

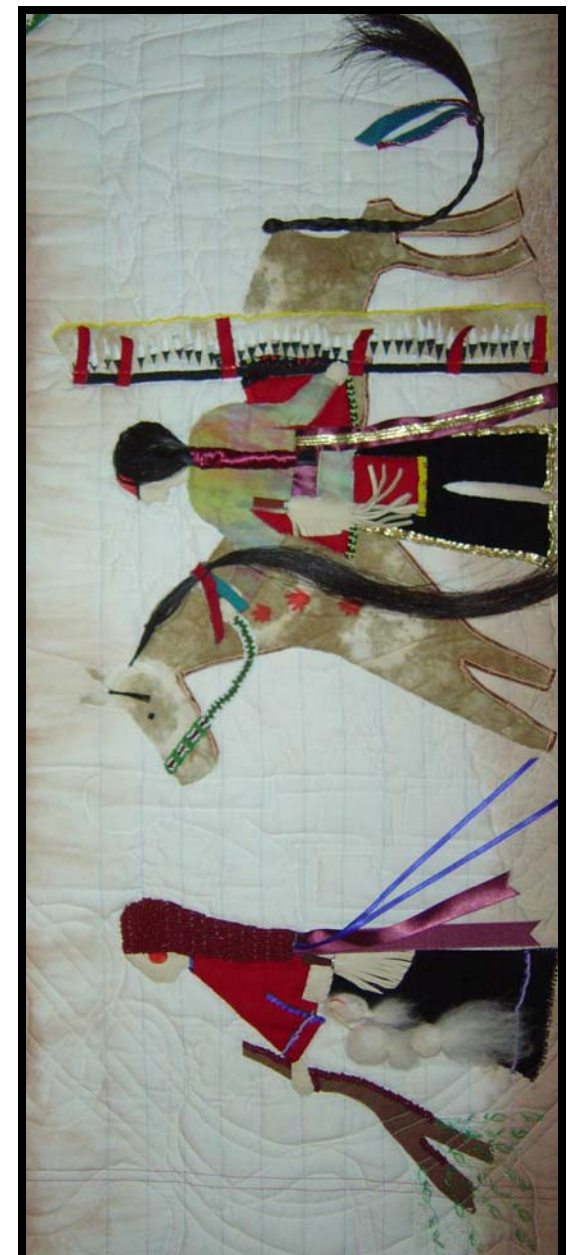
Edmonia Lewis Center for Women and  
Transgender People

American Indian Council

Black History Month

Asian/Pacific American Heritage  
Month

*For more information or to get involved,  
contact the Multicultural Resource Center at  
[mrc@oberlin.edu](mailto:mrc@oberlin.edu)*



**Indigenous  
Women's  
Series**  
2004 ~ 2005

# INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S SERIES 2004~2005 EVENTS

**Ellen Baird**

**“...for your own good;’  
American Indian Women and  
Forced Sterilization Policies of the  
1970’s”**

February 22, 2005

4:30pm West Lecture Hall, Science Center

During the 1970’s the US government, as part of its ongoing practice of genocide, carried out thousands of unnecessary and coerced or forced sterilizations on Native American women. Dr. Baird’s lecture will focus on these forced sterilization policies and their legacy for American Indian women.



Ellen Baird is an Adjunct Professor of Sociology at The University of Dayton. She is the Executive Director of The Little Moccasin Feat Project, serving American Indian children and families involved with Ohio social services and is a member of the Speakers Bureau for The Cleveland Indian Education Center. Dr. Baird lectures nationwide on American Indian social issues, cultural awareness, Federal American Indian Law and in South Dakota, and assists with state/tribal environmental issues.

Reception will follow in Love Lounge  
(Science Center).

**Tiya Miles**

**“Black Spots Upon The Memory’:  
Reconstructing African American  
History in the Cherokee Nation”**

February 28, 2005

4:30pm West Lecture Hall, Science Center

Tiya Miles is an Assistant Professor in American Culture and the Center for Afro-American and African Studies at the University of Michigan, where she is also an affiliated faculty member in Native American Studies. Her interests include African American and Native American comparative and interrelated histories; women of color history, literature, feminist thought and activism. Selected publications by Dr. Miles include *Bone of My Bone: The Story of an Afro-Cherokee Family in Slavery and Freedom*, now in preparation for publication by the University of California Press; *Uncle Tom Was an Indian: Tracing the Red in Black Slavery,* in *Confounding the Color Line: Indian-Black Relations in Multidisciplinary Perspective*, ed., James Brooks, (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2002); "Free Love? An Interracial 'Romance' in Cherokee Country," in *African Americans and American Indians: Explorations in Narrative, Identity and Place*, ed., Joseph Jordan (Forthcoming, Temple University Press).

Professor Miles’ visit is in coalition with Black History Month.

Reception will follow in the Edmonia Lewis Center (124 Woodland St).

**Davianna McGregor**

**“Demilitarizing Kaho’olawe and  
Restoring Hawaiian Culture”**

April 19, 2005

4:30pm West Lecture Hall, Science Center

The movement to stop U.S. military bombing and training on the island of Kaho’olawe was a landmark effort towards sovereignty for Native Hawaiians, including land rights. The movement also sparked a cultural renaissance and a revival of Native Hawaiian spiritual customs and practices. Professor McGregor will share her experiences in challenging, isolating and resisting the largest and most technologically advanced military force in the history of the world - the U.S. military.

Professor McGregor, an Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai’i, Manoa, is a historian of Hawai’i and the Pacific. Her ongoing research focuses on documenting the persistence of traditional Hawaiian cultural customs, beliefs, and practices in rural Hawaiian communities. This work is featured in her forthcoming UH Press book, *Kua’aina: Keepers of Hawai’i’s Sacred Nature*. Professor McGregor has numerous other publications to her credit and is a spokesperson for the organization Protect Kaho’olawe ‘Ohana, helping coordinate access to the island as part of its cultural stewardship.



Reception will follow in the Edmonia Lewis Center (124 Woodland St).